

April 2016 | TurleyCT.com

A product of TurleyCT Community Publications

Volume 3, Edition 7

newington

Rescue pup helps another

Logan the border collie
saves neighbor's life

See story on page 19

Residential Customer
ECR-WSS

PPSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PALMER, MA
PERMIT #22

TurleyCT Community Publications
540 Hopmeadow St.
Simsbury, CT 06070



GYM TIP #37:

never pay extra for classes.
(that's just silly !)



Join today!



newington 667.3200
(7 minutes from WH town hall)
simsbury · new britain · vernon
bigskyfitness.com

Save more green this Spring!

Get a newly-renovated apartment, plus:

- No entrance fee!
- Up to \$1,000 toward a Downsizing Specialist and Moving Company Services
- FREE! First Month's Rent



Spring is for new beginnings.

At The Heights, you'll enjoy the best of independent living, yet you're part of a vibrant, fun-loving senior community. You'll also have priority access to our full range of on-site health care services.

Luxurious upgrades:

- New carpet, paint and window treatments for every spacious room!
- New kitchen with new cabinets, elegant new lighting, granite counters and stainless steel appliances
- New bath with new vanity, granite counters and travertine tile floors

Come explore all The Heights has to offer

Join us for our Open House and Luncheon:

Saturday, April 9th and
Wednesday, April 20th

Event starts at 10:45 a.m.

For a private showing or to RSVP
for upcoming events, call:

860-953-1201 ext. 403

Welcome Spring with a New Outfit!

Join us for our Luncheon and Fashion Show!
Featuring the latest trends and styles in clothing
and accessories from the Villager Gift Shop.

Saturday, April 30th from 11am – 4pm



550 Avery Heights • Hartford, CT 06106



newington LIFE

April 2016

Read online: TurleyCT.com

540 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
t 860-651-4700
TurleyCT.com

QUOTE OF NOTE:

"We're seeing some growth in property values after years of stagnation."

- Interim Town Manager Tanya Lane

See story page 8

ON THE COVER

The LaVoie family, including Chas, Martha and Deanna, 17, are proud of their canine hero Logan.

Photo by Lisa Brisson
See story page 19

- 4 Bargains galore
- 5 On thin ice
- 10 Budget hike
- 13 LIFE in the classroom
- 16 Student of the month
- 21 Meet Greg Florio
- 23 Achieving top results
- 25 Living Spaces
- 38 Bean Tree Baby
- 46 Slice of LIFE
- 48 News roundup
- 51 Events spotlight
- 52 Calendar

Outdoor Living *at it's* Best



PAVILIONS & PERGOLAS NOW ON SALE!

Call today for a free estimate and design consultation.



KLOTER FARMS

KloterFarms.com 860-871-1048 216 West Rd, Ellington
FREE DELIVERY CT, MA, RI Extra charge for Cape Cod, MA



©Disney

YOUR DREAMS AREN'T JUST DREAMS

SHOWN: THE CINDERELLA COLLECTION IN .925
STERLING SILVER, MURANO GLASS AND PAVÉ.

Disney | **PANDORA**

AVAILABLE AT

Sterling Jewelers

965 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY • WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109
860.529.1187 • TOLL FREE 1.866.209.0717
WWW.SHOPSTERLINGJEWELERS.COM

Some jewelry displayed patented (US Pat. No. 7,007,507) • © Pandora • PANDORA.NET



Bargains galore

Big K Flea Market draws a crowd seeking nostalgia and good buys

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Flea markets are like a trip back in time. All kinds of items from days gone by tend to appear on one or more of the display tables.

Maybe that's why so many people come every Sunday to the Big K Flea Market hosted by the Newington Kiwanis Club in the Constitution Square parking lot in town center. Dozens of vendors are on hand with a wide variety of merchandise, often at bargain prices.

Veteran Kiwanian Al Cohen has been involved for many years, drawn in at first by his late wife Myra.

"The first one started in 1992," he said. "On a good day, we'll get up to 70 vendors. You can get almost anything legal here."

The original site was the hilltop location of the former Hartford Drive-In off the Berlin Turnpike, secured with the support of theater manager Dick Buzzell. When that property was sold and developed as housing, the flea market moved to its current location.

Cohen gave credit to former

mayor Joseph Doyle, Frank Zuraski and brothers Vincent and Morris Bellantuono as the originators of the market. Doyle also served as the club president. Zuraski was a town constable and commander of both the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion posts, and Vincent Bellantuono was another club president.

The first market was held Sept. 6, 1992. Former police chief Thomas Ganley helped the organizers work through some initial zoning and regulatory issues. All of the money raised is used by Kiwanis to support its local charitable giving.

"This is a town fundraiser," Cohen said. "All of the admission money goes to civic organizations. Most of the vendor money goes for that, too. It's the biggest entertainment bargain in the state of Connecticut."

The town donates the use of the municipal parking lot. Among the beneficiaries of Kiwanis charitable giving are Newington High School scholarships, the Newington Student Assistance Fund, Newington

The Big K Flea Market presented by the Newington Kiwanis Club is open for 10 weeks each spring and fall. It is held Sunday mornings in the Constitution Square parking lot in town center.



Photos by Mark Jahne

Members of the Newington High School chapter of the Key Club, a branch of Kiwanis designed specifically for high school students, volunteer their time at the flea market. They are, from left, Kristina Ransaroop, Sharon Sherpa and Rema Sherpa.

Community Television, Salvation Army, town human services and local youth sports.

Cohen is delighted when parents and grandparents bring little children. The vintage toys and other items for sale often fascinate the youngsters.

"The kids have a blast. They love it," he said.

Zoning regulations limit how often the flea market can be held, but the club has operated for years on a spring and fall basis with 10 weeks in each session. Hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$1 for adults and free for children.

"Lots of people come back every week," Cohen said.

The market is open every year during the months of May and June and again during the months of September and October. Vendors pay \$15 to rent a display space.

Items for sale on one recent Sunday included clothing, children's products, toys, furniture, fishing gear, glassware, records, DVDs, CDs, books, ceramics, knick-knacks, jewelry, health and beauty products,

cookware, tools, sports memorabilia and a vast array of Americana.

Club President Dan Henry said the Big K Flea Market is "pretty unique," at least for one that occurs weekly.

"The vendors are very supportive," he said.

Henry said the number of vendors and shoppers both climbed 20 percent since the market launched a Facebook presence. He makes sure to keep that page updated and fresh, and said the vendors, in particular, like that. The page has more than 600 followers.

Those vendors come from near and far and Henry said some show up every week. There are two admission gates to the flea market, named in memory of deceased Kiwanis members Robert Seiler and Donald Webb.

"Those guys were here all the time," Henry said. **NL**

The Big K Flea Market returns for its spring session beginning April 24. To learn more, call 860-839-1597 or 860-594-4495 or visit Newington Kiwanis Big K Flea Market on Facebook.



by Mark Janne
Editor

Someone falls through the ice on a pond or lake. The air temperature is below freezing and the water temperature is even lower. Something has to be done, and quickly, to save this life.

Enter the Newington Volunteer Fire Department. These men and

women are trained to ride to the rescue in a wide variety of emergencies, and one recent chilly morning they were practicing ice rescue techniques on the pond at Churchill Park.

The conditions were perfect for such a drill. Ice on the pond was an inch thick in some places, paper thin in others and nonexistent elsewhere.

That is the kind of scenario when a call like this is mostly likely to arise.

Geoff Anderson, a member of the department as well as an instructor, played the victim. Clad in a special suit to keep him dry and somewhat warm, he made his way to the middle of the pond and called out for help.

"These are the conditions where

people throughout the state are falling through," Capt. Peter Sweeney said as he observed the drill. "We haven't had enough cold to sustain a thick ice layer this year."

He is the department's training captain. Also keeping a close on of the proceedings was Assistant Chief Tom Lapierre.

"Each engine company has

The McGovern GRANITE COMPANY
Since 1903

Monuments
Markers
Lettering

Preparing Memorials Now For Spring Delivery

860-956-1960

432 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford (across from Cedar Hill Cemetery)
www.mcgovgranite.com

READ
LIFE
ONLINE AT

www.TurleyCT.com

TurleyCT
COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS

**LASTING IMPRESSIONS
ARE OUR FIRST PRIORITY.**

A funeral service represents a family's final farewell to their loved one. Knowing this, we go beyond what is expected to ensure the ceremony is beautiful and memorable... a truly fitting tribute to that special life.

We invite you to visit us to meet our staff and tour our facility. We think you'll be pleased to find that making lasting impressions is our first priority.

DUKSA
FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

Celebrating Moments · Cherishing Memories · Honoring Lives

BURRITT HILL FUNERAL HOME
332 Burritt Street • New Britain
(860) 229-9021

NEWINGTON MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME
20 Bonair Avenue • Newington
(860) 666-0600

©Adfinity



deployable rope for a quick self rescue,” Sweeney said, as well as specialized gear. “We use ladders and whatever else is available. Some spots are not very accessible.”

Sweeney said it is difficult for someone to get out of the freezing water on their own, even those who are good swimmers.

The first drill involved firefighters tossing a Frisbee-like disc attached to a rope to their victim. They quickly discovered how difficult it is to throw such an object accurately.

Even when they succeeded, they had to learn not to yank on the rope, but to pull the victim in by slowly walking away from the water because the victim’s hands and fingers probably are not working well after being in frigid water, resulting in trouble holding on to the device.

Even when they told Anderson to wrap his arms around the disc and press it to his chest, it tended to pop out if the rope moved too quickly. Time is of the essence in such rescues because the person in the water is rapidly approaching hypothermia.

“Severe hypothermia can occur in as little as 15 minutes,” Sweeney said. “Your body can shut down and you become disoriented.”

Advanced stages of that condition can cause not only loss of sensation in the extremities but confusion and the inability to follow even simple instructions. Waterlogged clothing is also a detrimental element.

Any rescuer who enters the water needs to be clad in a protective suit so that he or she does not become a second victim. Company 2 on Richard Street is the home of a



Firefighters on shore tow in the rescuer and victim.

wide variety of ice rescue equipment and is the first crew dispatched to any such incident.

Among that equipment is a special sled called Rescue Alive. It’s tethered to a rope, and a firefighter guides it across the ice with a pole and/or paddle, then loads the victim between the pontoons, after which fellow responders haul it to shore.

Firefighters suit up in protective gear before leaving the fire station so

they are ready to jump right into action upon arrival at the scene. Lapierre said the Tactical 2 truck, also housed at Station 2, is specifically equipped for ice rescue and hazardous materials incidents, among other things.

Several firefighters took turns donning protective gear and going out on the sled or otherwise into the water. Even with the special suits, it wasn’t long before they started to feel the cold. **NL**

Orthopedic Specialists



**FootPrints accepts
Medicaid assignment
and will file your
Medicare
claims.**

*FootPrints
assists individuals
in group or nursing homes.
Contact us for information about
coming to your facility.*

Certified Pedorthists at FootPrints will work closely with your doctor to address your most complex foot problems.

**Bunions • Hammer Toes • Arthritis
• Diabetes • Plantar Fasciitis**

FOOTPRINTS
Shoes & Accessories

79 COSTELLO ROAD, NEWINGTON • (860) 666-3100
MON.-SAT. 9:30-5:45 • THURS. NIGHT TO 8:45 • SUN. 10:00-5:00

**NOW OPEN
SUNDAYS**

footprintsshoes.com

Do you know a teen or young adult struggling with depression and marijuana and/or alcohol abuse?

Researchers at UConn Health are currently enrolling participants for a treatment program to address these struggles.

WHO: Teenagers and young adults (ages 13-19)

WHAT: Individual treatment sessions to address marijuana and/or alcohol abuse and depression

WHEN: One – two times weekly for 12-14 weeks

WHERE: UConn Health – Farmington, CT

- All treatment sessions are provided at NO COST.
- Transportation may be provided at NO COST to those who qualify.
- Teen/young adult may be compensated up to \$175 in gift cards and parents up to \$140 in gift cards for full participation in the program.

**For more information, contact
Marcia @ 860-679-3341 ~ mlawlor@uchc.edu
Rebecca @ 860-679-8478 ~ burke@uchc.edu**

Dr. Yifrah Kaminer, IRB#14-185-3

ATOM STUDIES @ UConn Health
Helping teenagers struggling with substance abuse for over 15 years!

Remembering Dominic Mazzocchi

by Mark Jahne
Editor

He fought the political fights and then he fought a five-year battle against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Those who knew Dominic Mazzocchi admired how he always managed to take the high road in everything he did.

The longtime resident who served as a town councilor, mayor and state representative died Feb. 11 at the age of 64. He was remembered by some of his veteran Republican Party colleagues as a man of integrity and honor.

"I was his deputy mayor," said Rodney Mortensen, who would later become mayor himself. "I admired him because we both grew up in the south end of Newington and went to Southeast School."

Their families knew each other well, he added. Both men served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Mortensen remembered Mazzocchi as someone who paid close attention to the details and placed the good of the town over partisan politics.

"He really had the best interest of Newington at heart. He always

tried to do what was right," Mortensen said. "He would get frustrated when things were wrong."

He said it seemed unfair that a man who did so much good and always took care of his health – Mazzocchi was an avid runner – should have to deal with ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's Disease after the famous baseball player who contracted it back in the 1930s.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Fundraisers were held to help defray the cost of treatment, and the street between the Lucy Robbins Welles Library and town hall was named Mazzocchi Way in his honor.

"He was an honorable man," Mortensen said.

Cathy Hall spent years serving with Mazzocchi on the Republican Town Committee. She said people sometimes misread him because he was so quiet, but he was also extremely efficient and always got the job done.

"He was one of those politicians, when you met him as a person or as



Dominic Mazzocchi

Courtesy photo

"He really had the best interest of Newington at heart. He always tried to do what was right."

– Rodney Mortensen

a politician, he was the same man," she said. "He was a very interesting guy."

Hall added that he never bullied anyone and was never one to act in a conniving manner.

"He was special because he knew how to talk to people. He was honest and straightforward with people," she said.

Mazzocchi was the youngest son of the late Rocco and Regina Mazzocchi. He earned a bachelor's degree in earth science and rose to the rank of captain in the Marines.

He worked at Travelers Insurance in Hartford for more than 20 years and then spent 12 years at the Housing Authority Insurance Group in Cheshire before his retirement.

He was a lifelong Republican and served on the Town Council from 1981-83, followed by three terms as mayor. He was then elected to three terms as a state representative serving the 27th Assembly District.

His many civic involvements included Newington Little League softball, Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Newington Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, Newington Jaycees, Newington Polish American Club, Knights of Columbus and Newington Kiwanis Club.

Mazzocchi served on the boards of the Metropolitan District Commission and Capital Region Council of Governments. **NL**

2244 Silas Deane Hwy.
Rocky Hill
860-257-8626
www.formalsbyantonio.com

FORMALS BY
Antonio
MEN'S CLOTHIERS

Beautiful Selection of
FINE MEN'S CLOTHING

PROM TUXEDO COUPON
Receive \$40⁰⁰ Off
Our Already Low Prices!
Choose from an Extensive Designer Collection In-Stock!
Cannot be combined with any other offer.

"They were wonderful."

We hear kind words consistently. We're proud that people feel comfortable enough with us to openly tell us how much they appreciate what we did for them. In fact, it's this appreciation that drives us to offer the very best in comfort, compassion and service.


D'ESOPO
FUNERAL CHAPEL
"Nationally Recognized for Excellence"

WETHERSFIELD EAST HARTFORD
860-563-6117 860-568-9420
www.desopo.com

**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
IN THE TOP 1% FOR EXCELLENCE**

©2002 Adfinity™

Elmwood Senior Center &
West Hartford/Bloomfield
Health District
present

Health & Wellness Fair

Thurs. April 14, 2016 • 9 am-12 noon



FREE Screenings Include:

- Dental
 - Blood Sugar
 - Vision
 - COPD
 - Hearing
 - Oral Health
 - Cholesterol
 - Height/Weight
 - Nutrition
 - Blood Pressure
 - Memory
 - Falls Assessment
- and more!



**The Little Boutique
will sell
Unique Gift Items**



FREE

- Reiki
- Neck/Chair Massage
- Fitness Center Visits
- Facials
- Manicures

Complimentary Healthy Refreshments

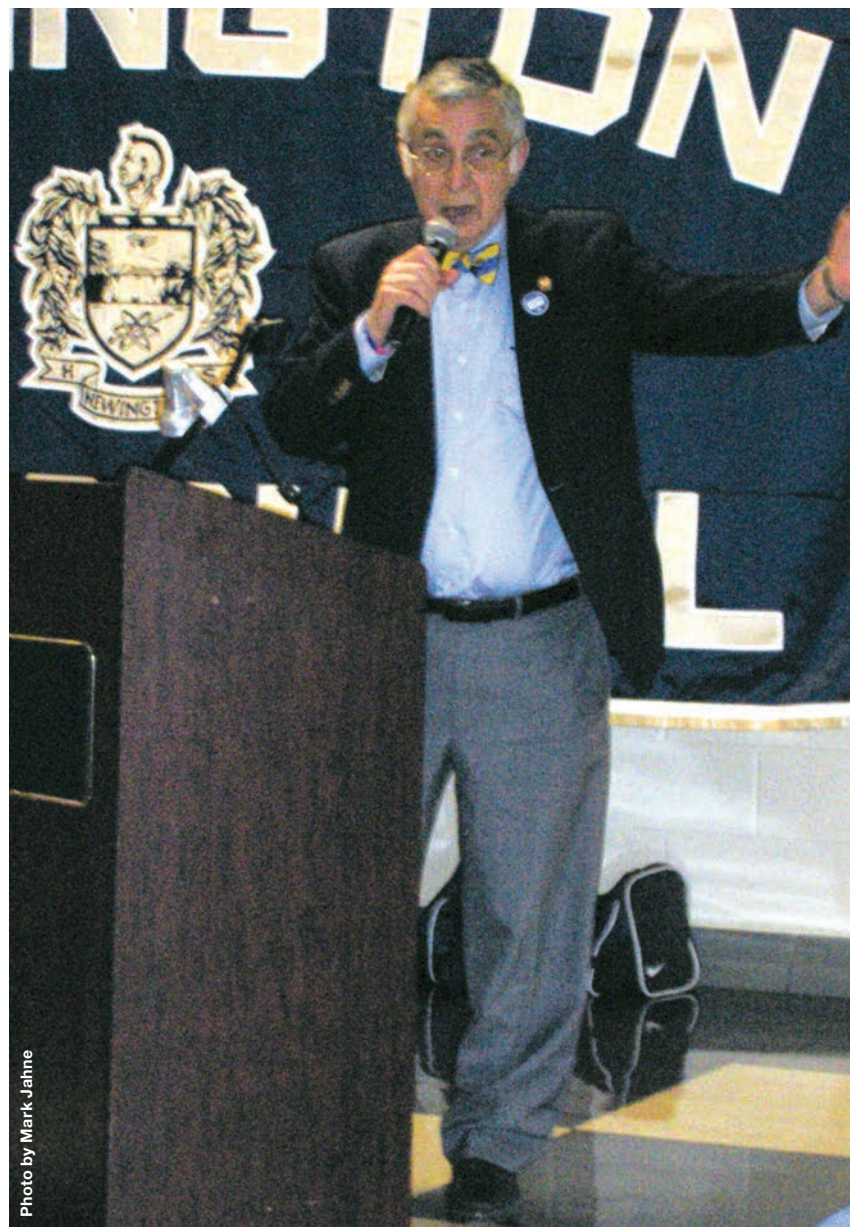
Elmwood Senior Center
1106 New Britain Ave., West Hartford • 860-561-8180
Registration NOT Required

Letters Policy

LIFE welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Letters may be sent via traditional mail or e-mail. A full name and street address are required for publication.

Please include your telephone number for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 300 words, and are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, spelling, grammar, brevity and taste.

Mail letters to 540 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 0670 or email Mark Jahne, at mjahne@turleyct.com.



Mayor Roy Zartarian talks about economic development at the annual State of the Town breakfast sponsored by the Newington Chamber of Commerce.

Positive outlook

State of the town shows
some promising trends

by Mark Jahne
Editor

The town may not be perfect, but some things are trending up. That was the general consensus presented at the annual State of the Town breakfast Feb. 25 at Newington High School.

The Newington Chamber of Commerce sponsors this annual event to afford businesses and residents the opportunity to hear directly from the town manager and mayor about how the town is faring.

"The state of the town is great. We're dealing from a position of strength. We're doing great, but we

do have some challenges," Interim Town Manager Tanya Lane said.

She cited the need to renovate town hall and other municipal buildings and schools. The municipal budget is in the black and the tax collection rate is 99.2 percent.

Lane said the grand list of taxable property, after several flat years, rose 2.5 percent. The town maintained its AA+ credit rating and has a lower debt service than many neighboring communities.

Newington has a long tradition of budgeting major projects either within its capital improvement budget or on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Town Councils over the years have, for the most part, resisted the temptation to borrow money.

"The total amount we owe as a town is one of the lowest in the state," she said. "We're seeing some growth in property values after years of stagnation."

A total of \$770 million was spent on retail sales in Newington over the past fiscal year.

"More people are spending more of their money in our town," Lane said.

But she also sounded some cautionary notes. The town pension fund is only 55.8 percent funded, and the massive state budget deficit could negatively impact town and school aid, as could global economic forces.

"We can't control what happens in most of the world ... but we can keep our own house in order," she said.

Because of the low debt service, the town could borrow as

"We're seeing some growth in property values after years of stagnation."

– Interim Town Manager Tanya Lane

much as \$82 million over time to tackle such projects as town hall renovation, roof repairs at Anna Reynolds School and expansion of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library. These projects would need voter approval.

Mayor Roy Zartarian focused his talk on economic development. He started by pointing out the razing of the National Welding factory on Cedar Street, a property he called "our own butt-ugly building" after a controversial Downtown Hartford structure of the same name.

"The site has attracted interest for development," he said.

Until then, the town is in discussions with the state Department of Transportation to use the land to provide an additional 90 parking spaces for the nearby CTfastrak station. The

number of parking spaces initially installed at the busway station quickly proved to be inadequate.

Zartarian added the Town Plan & Zoning Commission is working on zoning specifically for the CTfastrak corridor. He also spoke of the ongoing development near the intersection of East Cedar Street and the Berlin Turnpike, and other parcels around town.

"Companies are coming in and occupying vacant buildings," he said.

A \$470,000 state grant will allow the town to make streetscape improvements along Constance Leigh Drive in the town center. The nearby Clinical Lab Partners was sold to a competitor and the building is expected to close, he said.

Zartarian said it opens up the possibility of various development options for Hartford HealthCare, which owns the property.

The mayor spoke of improvements to the Best Market Plaza on Lowrey Place and the fact that businesses are showing an interest in renting some of the vacant storefronts adjacent to the supermarket.

"The parking lot is no longer the lunar landscape it once was," Zartarian quipped.

He also noted that new automotive businesses and restaurants have opened along the turnpike.

The mayor spoke of two major issues that the town will face at some point in the future. One, several years down the road, is the reconstruction of the I-84 viaduct in Hartford. It carries more than triple the number of vehicles it was designed to handle, and that multi-year project is expected to create such substantial traffic problems that a potentially massive number of the cars and trucks are expected to use Newington streets as detours.

He wants to see a traffic study and improvements made to Cedar Street before that happens.

A water main and sewer improvement project being undertaken by the Metropolitan District Commission will begin this spring along portions of Cedar Street and Willard Avenue. This is being done to rectify repeated sewage backup problems in local homes.

That work is expected to be completed early next year, Zartarian said. **NL**



"People at Seabury are ageless. They love to travel, create and be engaged in life."

*Renee Bernasconi,
Chief Strategy Officer*

Seabury has collaborated with a top architectural firm on major development plans, including 68 new independent living residences as well as a salon, bistro, day spa and other luxury amenities.

If you'd like to learn more, information sessions are held at Seabury every 1st Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and every 3rd Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Call (860) 243-6081 or
(860) 243-4033 for reservations
or e-mail info@seaburylife.org


Seabury
An Active Life Plan Community

200 SEABURY DRIVE | BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002-2650

(860) 286-0243 | (800) 340-4709

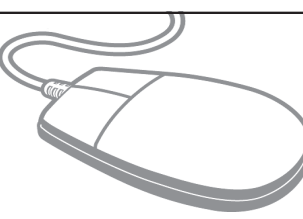
WWW.SEABURLIFE.ORG | INFO@SEABURLIFE.ORG

**BEST OF
Hartford
MAGAZINE**



A Proud Member of
International
Council on
Active Aging




TurleyCT
COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS

READ
LIFE
ONLINE AT
www.TurleyCT.com



Photo by Mark Jahne

Budget hike proposed

Interim town manager requests 3.8 percent increase in spending

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Then ink was barely dry on the paperwork naming Tanya Lane interim town manager when she had to begin crafting a 2016-17 municipal budget for review by the Town Council.

The result of that effort is a proposed budget of \$117,858,505, which marks an increase of \$4,264,051 over the current operating budget for

town government and public education, an increase of 3.8 percent.

"There are no new initiatives in this budget," she said. "The town government side started out with a 4.8 percent increase. We're trying to stay the course. Everybody was very focused to reduce the need for discretionary spending."

According to the official budget document, the contingency account was increased in preparation for contract negotiations with various unions. Lane said the major budget drivers are the usual ones: wages, rising health care insurance premiums, retirement payments and the

Tanya Lane is preparing her first municipal budget as interim town manager.

Gather Your Besties...
It's About To Get Real!

The Realish Housewives
of West Hartford
a parody

THE
BUSHNELL

April 14-16, 2016
860-987-5900 • BUSHNELL.ORG



Khubaib Yusuf Mapara, M.D.
Vascular Surgery

Saint Francis Welcomes Khubaib Yusuf Mapara, M.D.

Dr. Mapara, a specialist in vascular surgery, has joined the medical staff of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

Dr. Mapara received his medical degree from Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan, and completed his residency in general surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee. After residency, Dr. Mapara earned a fellowship in vascular surgery at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Board certified, Dr. Mapara is a member of Saint Francis Medical Group.

You can learn more about Dr. Mapara, or any of the more than 700 accomplished physicians on our medical staff, by visiting stfranciscare.com or calling 1-877-STFRANCIS (1-877-783-7262).

 **SAINT FRANCIS**
Hospital and Medical Center

Metropolitan District Commission's sewer assessment.

General government is up 3.5 percent, as is public education. Lane trimmed the bottom line of the school budget as approved by the Board of Education, which had adopted a 4.2 percent increase.

The town manager and Town Council can trim the bottom line of the school board's budget as part of their deliberations, but cannot make line item changes.

The cost to the town of employee benefits such as medical insurance, dental insurance, retirement, life insurance and payroll taxes is up 9.3 percent. Health claims alone have increased 16.9 percent over the past year. Lane attributes that to major illnesses and an aging work force.

"We're looking into options in that regard," she said.

Her focus is on maintaining programs and services while still being sensitive to the needs of taxpayers. Lane is only asking for one new position, an electrician for the Facilities Department.

She said the town is spending so much money hiring outside electrical contractors that, having someone

in house will save taxpayers money.

No layoffs are proposed.

A positive aspect of the budget is that debt service continues to drop because the town has not engaged in any bonding for several years.

The current outstanding debt is approximately \$7 million, and the

tion of the budget.

"It's one of the more unique aspects of Newington, and I think it has served us well over time," Lane said.

Her budget document proposes allocating more than \$6 million to the CIP, an 8 percent increase over

more likely than not to enact cuts to reduce the tax increase – the increase in the mill rate would be 1.11, from the current 35.80 to 36.91. When it comes to computing taxes, one mill equates to \$1,000 of assessed value.

How much the town will receive in state aid in the upcoming fiscal year that begins July 1 is an unknown because of the state government's budget woes. The exact amount will not be known until the legislature approves a budget later this spring.

Lane is planning on the same level of state aid the town usually receives and hoping that the amount that actually arrives is not dramatically less.

This is her first experience crafting a municipal budget as its chief executive officer. She does have budgetary background from her years of service on the Westbrook Board of Finance.

The council is scheduled to adopt the combined town/school municipal budget April 5. Any further changes to the bottom line for schools will then be dealt with by the Board of Education. **NL**

"We're trying to stay the course. Everybody was very focused to reduce the need for discretionary spending."

– Interim Town Manager Tanya Lane

town enjoys a credit rating of AA+, putting it in a favorable position to borrow money if it decides to renovate town hall or undertake other building projects.

Unlike many other Connecticut towns, Newington prefers to employ pay-as-you-go approach to capital projects involving public facilities and infrastructure, which requires setting aside sufficient funds in the Capital Improvement Program por-

fiscal year 2015-16.

Another piece of good news is that the grand list of taxable property, stagnant for several years, rose 2.5 percent over the past year. It now totals \$2.6 trillion.

The value of real estate on the grand list rose 2.9 percent, primarily due to the impact of state-mandated revaluation.

If the budget is approved exactly as submitted – the Town Council is



Call us TODAY for your FREE ESTIMATE!
860-656-7440
www.sceniclandscapingct.com

f YouTube





Maintenance Services:
 Lawn Mowing • Spring/Fall Cleanups
 Dethatching • Lawn Renovation
 Shrub Pruning • Brush Clearing

Installation Services:
 Mulch & Stone Installation
 New Plantings • Hydroseeding
 Patio, Walkways, Outdoor Living



READ
LIFE
 ONLINE AT
www.TurleyCT.com

TurleyCT
 COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS

DROP UP TO 2 SIZES WITH 3 TREATMENTS*



5 FREE**
 Venus Freeze Skin Tightening
 Treatments with purchase of
 3 UltraShape Treatments

860.436.9946



Maria O'Brien, M.D. • www.mmclaser.com
 2139 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill

*Results may vary. **Call for additional details & restrictions. Expires 4/30/16. May not be combined or applied retroactively. BBU/IMS void.

NICOLOCK[®]
 paving stones & retaining walls
 **paver-shield**[™]

10% OFF
NICOLOCK Pavers
& Retaining Walls
 In Stock/Full Pallets Only.
 Restrictions apply.
 Expires 4/30/16

Walkways • Patios • Retaining Walls • Firepits • Decorative Stone • Mulch • Topsoil

CEDAR MOUNTAIN

Stone & Mulch

1943 Berlin Turnpike • WETHERSFIELD

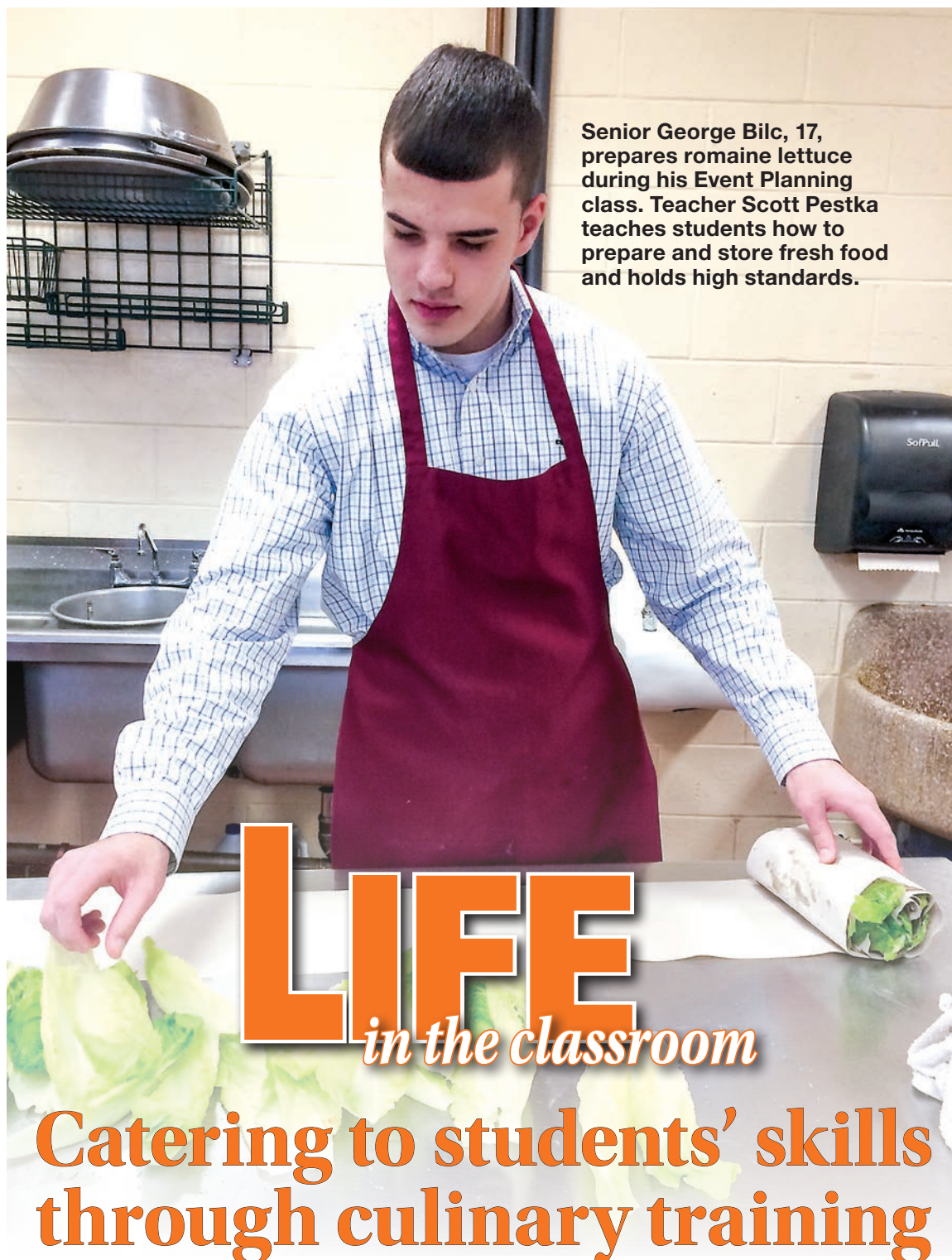
860.563.9200

www.cedarmountainstoneandmulch.com

Like us on Facebook



One of Greater Hartford's Largest Retail Distributors of Landscape Products



Senior George Bilc, 17, prepares romaine lettuce during his Event Planning class. Teacher Scott Pestka teaches students how to prepare and store fresh food and holds high standards.

LIFE

in the classroom

Catering to students' skills through culinary training

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

“Alright, people, let's get to it,” Scott Pestka called out across the kitchen.

Within seconds, meal preparations started. Vegetables were carefully cut with freshly sharpened knives, ingredients were added to whirring food processors and balls of cookie dough were laid out on large sheets for the industrial convection oven.

The scene had all the bustle of a highly rated restau-

rant's, but in this case each of the cooks was a student at Newington High School.

“This is not Home Ec. This is a restaurant atmosphere with catering services,” Pestka said. “Last week I taught them how to debone a whole chicken. That kind of stuff isn't taught in Home Ec.”

He serves as the culinary teacher and chef for Newington High School's Culinary Arts Academy, now in its second year. The program offers students a range of hands-on classes, from Introduction to Cooking, to Event Planning, to Restaurant Management, all of

which are areas in which he has experience.

A former restaurant owner in Arizona, Pestka is also a certified math teacher whose career previously had him working at Martin Kellogg Middle School.

He enjoyed teaching math, but teaching the culinary arts is his true passion, and when this position at the high school opened up this past year, he immediately stepped into the role.

Pestka's goal was to teach high school students the skills needed to succeed in a restaurant environment. But to get

Photos by Allie Rivera

Beautiful Jewelry

 **DILAMANI.**

comes from
Turgeon Jewelers

1841 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield
860.436.6400 • turgeonjewelers.com
mike@turgeonjewelers.com | T-W-F 10-6; Th 10-7; Sat 10-5

WE MAKE SPRING SHOPPING EASY!

Please Visit

- Bed, Bath & Beyond
- Chimirri's Italian Pastry Shoppe
- Friendly's
- Froyo World
- H&R Block
- Hairport
- Lane Bryant
- Once Upon A Child
- Panera Bread
- Payless Shoe Source
- Plato's Closet
- Sake Café Restaurant
- Sebastinelli Jewelers
- Sleepy's
- TJ Maxx
- Tré Lynn Salon
- The UPS Store
- Utsav Indian Cuisine
- Webster Bank
- Wethersfield Liquors
- Wethersfield Optical

Located on the Silas Deane Highway between Exit 24 & 25 off I-91



Students in Scott Pestka's Event Planning class at Newington High School use their knife skills to chop vegetables for an upcoming catered event.



Everything in Scott Pestka's culinary classes is made from scratch, including the dinner rolls that Kristen Costanza, left, Toni Laites, center, and Sashesha Haughton baked.

there, the school would need restaurant equipment.

"We're slowly putting everything together," he said. "What's nice about Newington is that they're always trying to stay up with the times."

In the last two years, the culi-

nary kitchen has installed a new convection oven, panini press, deli slicer, catering chafing dishes, utensils and even a meat smoker.

"I teach the kids how to smoke their own meat," Pestka said. "They learn all the different processes

behind all the different cooking methods."

All of their knowledge is not only for practice, however. The classroom also operates as a catering service for both school members and the greater community. Each day, a

large, double-door refrigerator is stocked with fresh wraps and salads, along with homemade dressings for \$4 and \$5, respectively, as well as freshly baked cookies and breads.

"Once you try our Caesar dressing, you'll never order a Caesar salad at a restaurant again, trust me," Pestka said.

The quality of the food is always high in large part because he is a self-described perfectionist.

"I always tell the kids, we have to sell quality. There will be times where I look at it and it doesn't look perfect, and they'll take them all apart and redo their chef salad because I wasn't going to sell poor quality," he said. "I'll put my wraps and salads up against anybody any day."

Students in each of Pestka's classes are made aware of his high standards and they have always risen to the occasion.

"When I first came in here, I thought he was intimidating," 15-year-old Toni Laites. "Now I know he's not that scary, he just wants things to come out good."



reclaim your beach Body

CT'S PREMIER BODY SCULPTING CENTER

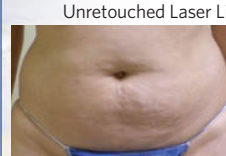
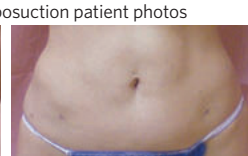
The Langdon Center is Connecticut's premier body contouring center, with an unparalleled commitment to providing the most advanced and widest array of technologies to give you the best results. With the most extensive selection of minimally and non-invasive procedures to reduce fat & sculpt the body, Yale trained board-certified cosmetic surgeon & dermatologist Dr. Robert Langdon can help you slim down.

▶ \$500 OFF

Liposuction or any Body Contouring Procedure



Unretouched Laser Liposuction patient photos

BEFORE AFTER

- ▶ Cellulaze™ Cellulite Reduction
- ▶ CoolSculpting® Non-invasive Fat Reduction*
- ▶ LaserLipo Minimally Invasive Fat Reduction*
SmartLipo™, ProLipo™ and SlimLipo™
- ▶ Natural Breast Augmentation

Special promotion valid through 04.30.16, and may not be combined. Must mention this ad to receive special. Individual results vary. Other restrictions may apply. * On two or more body areas.

844.550.7828

THE LANGDON CENTER

LangdonCenter.com
Guilford



Syvanna Peck, left, and Beatriz Martins prepared Snickerdoodle cookies to go into the facility's new convection oven. It is one of the many recent additions for the Culinary Arts Academy at NHS including a meat smoker, deli slicer and panini press.

“What’s nice about Newington is that they’re always trying to stay up with the times.”

– Scott Pestka

“We really take the effort to make sure everything is done to perfection,” senior George Bilc, 17, said.

In addition to keeping the classroom stocked with treats for visitors, Pestka and his classes also run two to three larger catering events per month. That recently included the Newington Chamber of Commerce State of the Town breakfast, as well as the high school football team’s banquet for more than 150 people.

“Word is starting to get out,” Pestka said.

He credits the academy’s growing popularity not only to the insistence on high-quality food, but also their professionalism.

“I tell the kids that their image, our presentation of the food, how we look and act, all of that, that’s three quarters of the battle right there,” Pestka said.

This year, students were outfitted with new blue catering jackets that Pestka said only adds to their professional appearance.

“To me, it’s the little things

that really put the wow in an event,” he said.

During their catering events, they are expected to present themselves as professionals, put their cell phones away and speak in a manner that is fitting of a high-quality business.

“There’s a difference between ‘What do you want today?’ and ‘How can I help you today?’” Pestka said. “Those kinds of skills can transfer to the workforce, and not just in restaurants, but in any job.”

He strives to show students how to best utilize the resources they have. He focuses on teaching knife skills, and after teaching how to debone a whole chicken, he made sure to show how every piece of the meat could be used.

“We took the chicken breast and tenders and we’re doing chicken parm, then next week we’re using the rest of the meat for chicken pot pie,” he said. “After that, we’ll make a stock with the rest. Like I said, this isn’t the kind of stuff that’s taught in Home Ec.”

Pestka is proud of the fact that his students have fre-

quently been mistaken for a professional catering company and all of the money they earn from events goes directly back into the program to purchase more equipment.

There are plans for the kitchen to be renovated over the summer to include an area in the room next door to host catering events.

With the Culinary Arts Academy fully underway, students who are interested in pursuing a job in this field said they are glad to have the opportunity to learn in a hands-on environment.

“He’s kind of crazy, but it’s a good working experience,” Helena Kurpaska, 17, said with a small laugh. “The equipment is all industrial, so I think it gives that real-life experience.”

Pestka is happy to be able to teach real-world skills to his students and he hopes that more will consider taking some of his classes.

“Whether they go into the restaurant industry or not, these are the skills that they can carry with them,” Pestka said. **NL**

Tired of being sick and tired?

Bordeaux Nutrition® Can Help!

Nutrition counseling helps with:

- Reflux/GERD, Gas, Bloating, IBS, Crohn’s, Colitis
- Allergies, Asthma, Celiac, Gluten/Food Intolerance
- Migraines, Joint pain, Gout, Osteoporosis, Kidney Stones
- Acne, Psoriasis, Eczema, Autism, ADD/ADHD
- Bipolar, Schizophrenia, Depression, Anxiety
- Disordered eating, Food Fears and Body Image Issues
- Thyroid, Diabetes, PCOS
- Weight mgmt, High Cholesterol, High Blood Pressure
- Autoimmune: RA, Fibromyalgia, Ankylosing Spondylitis

...and many other conditions for children and adults

Don’t just survive...THRIVE! with Bordeaux Nutrition®



Renée J. Bordeaux
RD, CDN, CPT



Jacqui Campbell
MS, RD, CDN

Bordeaux Nutrition®, LLC

INTEGRATIVE NUTRITION • MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY

66 Cedar Street, Suite 305, Newington

860-757-3474

www.bordeauxnutrition.com

We accept: Aetna, Anthem/BCBS, Connecticare, Cigna, United Healthcare, Oxford, Medicare and Harvard Pilgrim



READ
LIFE
ONLINE AT

www.TurleyCT.com
TurleyCT
COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS



Sean Fleming, 7, a second grade student at John Paterson School, is described by his principal as rising above the rest.

Student of the month

He gives off a sense of hard work and maturity

by Allie Rivera

Staff Writer

With a heavy sigh, Sean Fleming leaned back in an office chair, his hands on the armrests beside him, his eyes staring forward as though recalling a distant memory.

"I haven't written a new book in so long," he said.

The situation would seem borderline melancholy coming from someone else, but at 7 years old and with his feet were barely able to touch the ground, Sean's moment of gravity quickly passed.

"He's a super mature kid," John Paterson School Principal Michael Gaydos said. "He definitely rises above the second grade class."

According to Gaydos, second-graders are not typically selected to receive recognition in the school's Student of the Month program. But Sean's commitment to academics, willingness to work hard and kindness toward others make him an exception.

"If I just read the write-up on him without the name, hands down he would get the recognition," Gaydos said. "He's a great kid

and really a high-level thinker."

Sean finds much of that work is simply enjoyable. An avid reader, the time when his class goes book shopping for new materials is his favorite.

"We do book shopping in the classroom and that's where I read 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid,'" he said, referring to his favorite book series.

Sean's love of reading both inside and outside of the classroom caused him to want to create his own stories and eventually turned into a passion.

"My friend brought in this book called 'The Book with No Pictures,' [by B.J. Novak] that was really funny," Sean said. "At home I started thinking I should write my own."

With that thought in mind, he set himself to the task and in the past year created or began three different book series.

The first, directly inspired by Novak's book, is a series Sean called "The History of No Pictures." His second series, which presently has only one book, is called "Picture Man."



Sophia's Breakfast & Lunch

— We serve breakfast & lunch all day —

- Full Breakfast
- Daily Specials
- Homemade Soups
- Omelet Wraps
- Potato Pancakes
- Stuffed Cabbage
- Pierogies
- Meat Blintzes
- Crepes & more...
- Catering Available

134 Market Square • Newington 860-666-1942
www.sophiascatering.com • Open 6am-5pm Tues-Sun

STEVE'S PLACE

Since 1969

GRINDERS • PASTA • SALAD • GRILLE

You Can't Franchise "Great" Food...

- Lunch & Dinner Specials prepared in-house
- Cold Cuts Sliced to Order
- Fresh Cut Produce
- Bakery Breads Delivered Daily

...We Prove It Everyday!!

84 Market Square
Newington
860.666.5975

366 Cromwell Ave.
Rocky Hill
860.721.8545



CONNECTICUT KENPO KARATE



- ★ SELF DISCIPLINE
- ★ SELF ESTEEM
- ★ SELF CONFIDENCE
- ★ 4 CLASSES PER WEEK
- ★ VIDEO INSTRUCTION
- ★ MODERN ARNIS CLASSES
- ★ NO CONTRACTS REQUIRED

**Serving Newington
Since 1991**

135 Lowrey Place Newington, CT
860-665-9822 www.ctkenpo.com

STAY LOCAL WITH
NEWINGTON CENTER!

"It's about this guy who draws stuff like villains and when he leaves they come to life," he explained.

In addition to his writing prowess, Sean is also an artist. His third book series, presently titled "Captain No Pants," is a graphic novel series where he also draws each of the panels for the story.

"I'm trying to get them published," he said, sitting back in his chair with a serious expression returning to his face. "I need to start my own publishing company next so that I can publish them."

Although Sean is upbeat and talkative, his commitment to his work both in and out of school all has that same serious approach to it. He is part of the school's enrichment programming, including one program that focuses on the stock market and meets every Thursday after lunch.

"We're learning about how the stock market runs and how they start the day with this bell and a special person rings it," Sean said. "We're learning about needs and wants and the value of money."

He is part of another enrichment group called Tech Sprouts that involves learning computer skills to make videos, find clues and locate the principal.

"He's a great kid and really a high-level thinker."

- Principal Michael Gaydos

"They had lines they had to practice and then they compiled it all into a video," his mother, Kathy Fleming, said. "They had all these clues from historical places around town."

Sean recognized that the enrichment programs he participates in are something special. As he explained its importance, he once again sat back in his chair, his face looking as though he has seen far

more than seven years in his life.

"It's good for kids that aren't being challenged enough because they've already gotten to their end of the year benchmarks," he said.

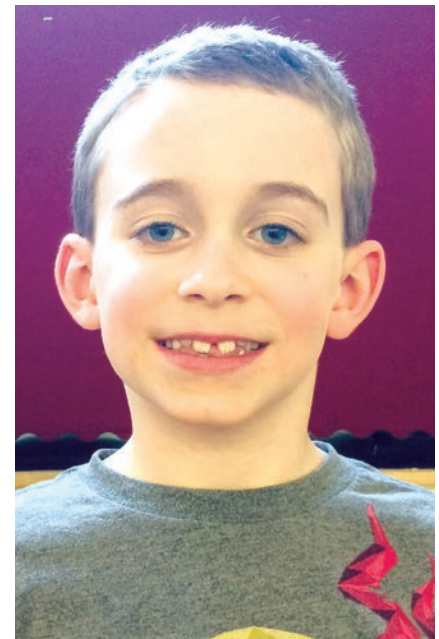
Outside of school, he participates in baseball, basketball and swimming through Newington Parks and Recreation, but he and his mother agreed that having down time to spend with family and friends is important.

Sean values time spent with family, which includes his younger sister, Hannah, 5, along with his parents. The four have recently started playing the video game Mario Kart 8 together in addition to playing with Sean's favorite toy, LEGOs.

"I play with LEGOs the most. They're scattered all over the place," he said.

The family also gets yearly season passes to Lake Compounce in Bristol, where Sean loves to ride roller coasters.

"I also like all the 'spinnny' rides," he said. "Well, except for the Wipeout. That thing is my worst nightmare."



According to his mother, Sean consistently puts hard work into everything he does, but it is his sense of responsibility that she believes sets him apart.

"I think Sean has always been someone who rises to the occasion," she said. "When push comes to shove, when you need him to do something, he's dependable." **NL**

TurleyCT
COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS

PRESS
AVON • BURLINGTON • CANTON • FARMINGTON
GRANBY • SIMSBURY • WEST HARTFORD

LIFE
"Award winning publications serving your community"
Valley West Hartford
Glastonbury
Wethersfield
Rocky Hill
Newington

To Advertise: 860.651.4700
www.turleyct.com


Brook Wealth Management, LLC
Your Bridge to Financial Success

FUN DOESN'T RETIRE
We encourage you to enjoy the wealth you've worked so hard to build while helping to preserve it at the same time. After all, true wealth is not about money; it's about the experiences we share with those we love.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR OFFICE

What-if of Retirement Planning Workshop
April 19th • 6:00pm-7:30pm

- Live Too Long?
- Taxes Go Up?
- Major Market Correction?
- High Inflation?
- Need More Income?
- Surviving Spouse?

Variable annuities will be discussed. Variable Annuities are suitable for long-term investing, such as retirement investing. Withdrawals prior to age 59 may be subject to tax penalties and surrender charges may apply. Variable annuities are subject to market risk and may lose value.

Planning for Your Long-Term Care Needs Workshop
May 24th • 6:00pm-7:30pm

- To help prepare you for the unexpected
- Cover the risk of needing long-term care
- What funding sources are available for long-term care
- Is long-term care insurance the right choice for you

Registration
<https://www.facebook.com/brookwealthmanagement/events>
Seating is limited. Register today!

1090 Elm Street, Suite 102, Rocky Hill
Telephone: 860 257-8688 Fax: 860 257-8690 www.brookwealth.com

Private Wealth Management For Select Individuals
Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC



Third Annual

The Newington Chamber of Commerce is holding its "Best of Newington" Awards. Please enter the business name of your choice in each category!



Awards

Only businesses located in Newington or are members of the Newington Chamber of Commerce are eligible to win. All ballots must be received by April 30, 2016. NO EXCEPTIONS!

TWO WAYS TO VOTE: Mail in newspaper ballot to Chamber Office at 1046 Main St., Newington OR online at NewingtonChamber.com

One vote per person. If you have submitted an online ballot and a newspaper ballot, only the first submitted ballot will count. One vote per email address will be accepted online. Duplicate email entries will not be accepted. Fill in at least 10 categories to be valid. Winning businesses will have their names published in local publications and will receive an award at the Newington Chamber Annual Awards dinner.

SAVE THE DATE:

3rd Annual "Best of Newington" Awards Night

When: Friday, June 3, 2016

6pm Cocktail Hour • 7pm Dinner & Annual Meeting
8pm Awards & Dessert

Where: Indian Hill Country Club, 111 Golf St., Newington

Cost: \$40 per person • Open to the Public

Contact Chamber Office at 860-666-2089 for tickets

Sponsored by:



Best Accountant/Tax Consultant _____	Best Health & Fitness _____
Best Animal Care _____	Best Ice Cream/Froyo _____
Best Attorney/Law Firm _____	Best Insurance Agency _____
Best Auto Care _____	Best Jewelry Store/Gift Shop _____
Best Bank/Credit Union _____	Best Landscaper/Lawn Care _____
Best Breakfast _____	Best Martial Arts Center _____
Best Burger _____	Best Massage _____
Best Chinese Food _____	Best Media/Publication _____
Best Chiropractor _____	Best Mexican Food _____
Best Clothing Store _____	Best Nail Salon _____
Best Contractor/Home Improvement _____	Best Package Store _____
Best Dentist/Oral Surgeon _____	Best Physician _____
Best Dessert/Bakery _____	Best Pizza _____
Best Dry Cleaner/Tailor _____	Best Place for Indoor Fun _____
Best Eye Care _____	Best Real Estate Agency _____
Best Florist _____	Best Restaurant _____
Best Furniture Store _____	Best Senior Care Provider _____
Best Grinder/Sandwich _____	Best Sign/Print Shop _____
Best Grocery Store _____	Best Tattoo Parlor _____
Best Hair Salon _____	Best Technology Store or Service _____
Best Happy Hour _____	Best Urgent Care _____

Name _____ Email _____
or Vote Online @ www.newingtonchamber.com ☐ Please check box if you would like to be added to the Chamber's email list.

FILL IN AT LEAST 10 CATEGORIES TO BE VALID.

**“He was a rescue and he gave back.
He saved her life.”**

– Chas LaVoie



Martha LaVoie is proud of Logan and thrilled to have him as part of the family.

Dog saves the day

Early-morning barking saves neighbor's life

by Mark Jahne

Editor

Logan the border collie mix doesn't usually bark around 5 a.m., so when he became vocal at that hour of the morning on Valentine's Day, his family took notice.

Chas LaVoie thought that perhaps the dog had an urgent need to go relieve himself, so he opened the door to let Logan out. Logan continued to bark, which was uncharacteristic.

It was a few minutes before 5 a.m. and the temperature outside was 11 degrees below zero. LaVoie, his wife Martha and daughter Deanna were concerned that their dog would wake up the neighbors along Superior Avenue, but also curious about this unusual behavior.

“He kept barking and looking at the neighbor's yard,” Chas said. “I heard our neighbor desperately crying for help. I hustled over there and helped her up and into

the house.”

Logan closely monitored the entire proceeding.

For reasons unknown, the neighbor— who was wearing fairly light clothing and had lost a slipper — had fallen and was unable to regain her footing. He wonders how long she would have lasted in that frigid cold before lapsing into hypothermia, or worse.

Chas stayed with her until he was confident that she was sufficiently warm and able to take care of herself. Then he came home to tell everyone how Logan had saved a life.

The dog knew he had done a good deed. He was excitedly wagging his tail.

“I was so happy with him. The whole thing is amazing to us,” Chas said. “You are such a good boy. You are a hero,” he told the happy pooch.

He is convinced that Logan



LIFE welcomes
input from our readers.

Please send us your letters to the editor, calendar announcements, photos, people notes and story ideas about interesting people and organizations in town. You may send items to LIFE, 540 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 or email Mark Jahne at mjahne@turleyct.com.

The Freedom & Time... to Enjoy Life!



At Atria Greenridge Place we have created a vibrant community where older adults can thrive, participate & enjoy access to activities, care & support to help them keep making a positive contribution & difference in our world!

Come In Today For A Tour!



Atria
SENIOR LIVING

One Elizabeth Court • Rocky Hill • 860.257.0000
www.atriagreenridgeplace.com



Logan the border collie mix was rescued by the LaVoie family of Newington. His heroics helped save a neighbor from freezing to death.

would have persisted with his barking and looking toward the neighbor's house until someone came to help.

"He was a rescue and he gave back. He saved her life," Chas said.

Logan is almost 3 years old. He was adopted while still a puppy as a rescue from Texas through the Connecticut Humane Society. The LaVoie family quickly learned he is highly intelligent.

"He was calm. He would just follow you with his eyes," Martha said. "He was so easy to train. He learned to sit the first day we had him. He's a great dog."

"He doesn't leave the yard," Chas added, even when off the leash. "He's well trained. We take him camping. Everybody in the neighborhood knows him."

Border collies are herding dogs and it is ingrained in their DNA to nip at sheep to move them in the desired direction. Logan nipped people at first but quickly realized, without any training or correction,

that they did not like this behavior.

On his own initiative, he taught himself to grab a shoe or slipper to bite on when a stranger enters the house to counteract the need to nip. Once the family accepts the stranger, he puts the footwear down and comes over to calmly introduce himself and seek some attention.

"He loves to play with kids. He loves to play hide and seek. He loves the snow; he loves to dive underneath it," Martha said.

At more than 80 pounds, it's not so easy for Logan to hide, but he gives it his best shot. Sometimes his tail is the only thing visible, sticking out of a snow bank.

"We go for walks every day. He's just a fabulous dog," Chas said. "He amazes me how persistent he was that morning. He made me listen."

Logan sometimes walks himself, carrying the leash in his mouth. He even plays with the family cat, something he enjoys but the cat would just as soon do without, the LaVoies said. **NL**

The Dental Center, LLC



Our family-centered private practice is welcoming new and existing adult and pediatric patients to our newly renovated, state-of-the-art, dental practice!



David P. Bell, D.M.D.



Barbara Honor, D.M.D.



Brian D. Bell, D.M.D.

www.TheDentalCenterLLC.com

Emergency Patients Welcome

2304 Berlin Turnpike, Newington **860-666-1000**

42 Wintonbury Mall, Bloomfield **860-242-1230**



Barbara and Oliver are happy in their new home.

Hoffman SummerWood Community is CT's premier senior living rental community offering fine kosher dining and a wealth of other amenities including memberships to the Mandell JCC, the University of Hartford's President's College, and the West Hartford Senior Center. To learn more call 860-523-3808 or visit www.hoffmansummerwood.org.



**Hoffman SummerWood
Community**

A Member of the Hebrew HealthCare Family

160 Simsbury Road, West Hartford www.hoffmansummerwood.org



Photo by Mark Jahne



Greg Florio of Newington is the new executive director of the Capitol Region Education Council.

Meet Greg Florio

New leader takes over as head of CREC

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Greg Florio was looking for a job that would allow him to have wider influence than that of a local superintendent of schools. He found that position with the Capitol Region Education Council, where he began serving as executive director Jan. 1.

Florio, who grew up in New Britain and has lived in Newington for many years, comes to CREC after spending 24 years with the Cheshire Public Schools, including 12 as superintendent.

He and his wife have three grown children who went through the Newington Public Schools.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Fairfield University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Hartford. Florio also holds a sixth-year certificate and doctorate of educational

leadership from Southern Connecticut State University.

His initial career path was to become a corporate executive. He has worked in the insurance industry as well as education.

One of his priorities is to visit all schools and programs in his first three months. His approach is to work collaboratively and build relationships. CREC has more than 2,500 employees and key partners.

Florio is excited about the fact that CREC serves a diverse population. In addition to its 18 award-winning magnet schools, it offers a broad range of other programs and services. He also likes that it focuses on equity in education for all children.

"We're an agency of the state," he explained.

CREC is one of six regional edu-

MEDI-WEIGHTLOSS® WETHERSFIELD IS NOW AN IN-NETWORK PROVIDER WITH Anthem BlueCross BlueShield*

Our comprehensive, clinically proven program makes us **The One That Works!**®

Eva Imperial, MD



Losing just 5%-10% of your body weight can:

- Lower your blood pressure
- Lower your diabetes risk
- Reduce your bad cholesterol levels
- Make shopping a lot more fun



DEBBI
ACTUAL PATIENT

PHYSICIAN-SUPERVISED WEIGHT LOSS

135 pounds lost†
8.4% drop in blood sugar
73% drop in triglycerides
15% drop in blood pressure
18" lost from waist

MEDI
WEIGHTLOSS
The one that works!®

Wethersfield
 1283 Silas Deane Hwy.
 Wethersfield, CT 06109
860.249.8659
 MediWeightloss.com

*Not all products and/or services may be covered. Contact your carrier for details.
 † On average, patients compliant with the Medi-Weightloss® Program lose 6.4 pounds the first week and 14 pounds the first month. Rapid weight loss may be associated with certain medical conditions and should only be considered by those who are medically appropriate. © 2016 Medi IP, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

cation service centers that were established around the state in the 1960s. Their purpose is to serve member local school districts.

There are 35 member districts in this RESC, and each has one person assigned to serve on the CREC board.

He said CREC began with programs and services related to special education, and then other state initiatives came along. Magnet schools in the Hartford region became a priority after the settlement of the Sheff v. O'Neill lawsuit regarding equal educational opportunities in an integrated school setting.

The lawsuit argued that Hartford children were being denied the right to an equal education because of the requirement that they attend schools located within city boundaries, some of which posted consistently low test scores.

"CREC was very successful when they asked, 'Who can build magnet schools? Who can help us meet the court requirements?'" Florio said. "Because Sheff was a Hartford-

focused issue, CREC was the agency the state used to develop magnet schools."

In addition to the 18 CREC magnets, the Hartford Public Schools also operate several magnet schools designed to attract suburban students into the city to provide the integrated educational experience mandated by the court.

CREC is heavily involved in the Open Choice program – originally named Project Concern when it was founded some 50 years ago – to place city students in suburban classrooms when and where seats are available. Open Choice is a partnership between CREC, the state and the Hartford Public Schools.

While that gets most of the attention, Florio said CREC is much more than a provider of magnet schools. It offers its member districts more than 120 programs and services. CREC schools have both full-day and part-day programs.

"It's not just the schools. It's all the programs we offer to the region," he said. "The foundation of what

CREC was is still here."

Part of what drew him to apply for the job is he believes that public education needs to change and he wants to be a part of that.

He also wants to make sure that the magnets are sustainable for the long term.

"What attracted me was the opportunity to have an impact on a much wider scale. There are good things happening all across the region," Florio said. "We need to develop a long-term plan for the magnet program and how it fits into the region. I would hope we would be the conversation leader in bringing districts together."

Florio pointed out that all school districts and organizations face the challenge of limited resources. The answer, as he sees it, is to work together effectively.

"We're all having significant challenges with the state budget," he said.

CREC is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. It began in 1966 when John Allison,

a Manchester chemistry teacher, completed his doctorate at Harvard University and returned to Connecticut to launch the Metropolitan Effort Toward Regional Opportunity with the help of a federal grant acquired through the Wethersfield Board of Education.

METRO was folded into CREC, a cooperative grassroots project created by area school boards.

Allison was executive director for its first 32 years.

Marcia Yulo held that post from 1998-2001, and Bruce Douglas took over from 2001 to the end of 2015. Florio is the fourth executive director in the agency's history.

CREC's mission has always been to improve the quality of public education in Connecticut. From the beginning, it has offered services to help municipalities, school districts and nonprofit agencies save time and money.

CREC opened its first magnet school, the Greater Hartford Academy for the Arts, in 1985. **NL**



PUT YOUR FAMILY'S DENTAL CARE IN THE HANDS OF A RESPECTED DENTIST.

We understand that healthy smiles are essential to a healthy body. We offer quality general and cosmetic services.

"Tomorrow's Dentistry Today"



Dr. Theodore Adamidis
Voted Top Dentist 2007-2015
by Hartford Magazine

- **Crowns in a single visit** -
We offer crowns made with CEREC, that makes crowns in the office, in a single visit. No more temporaries.
- **Dental implants for missing teeth**
- **Non surgical laser treatments for gum disease**
- **Invisalign** - *Straight teeth without braces*
- **Beautiful, natural-looking smile makeovers**
- **Anxiety free dental visit with sedation** -

Friendly, patient financing available



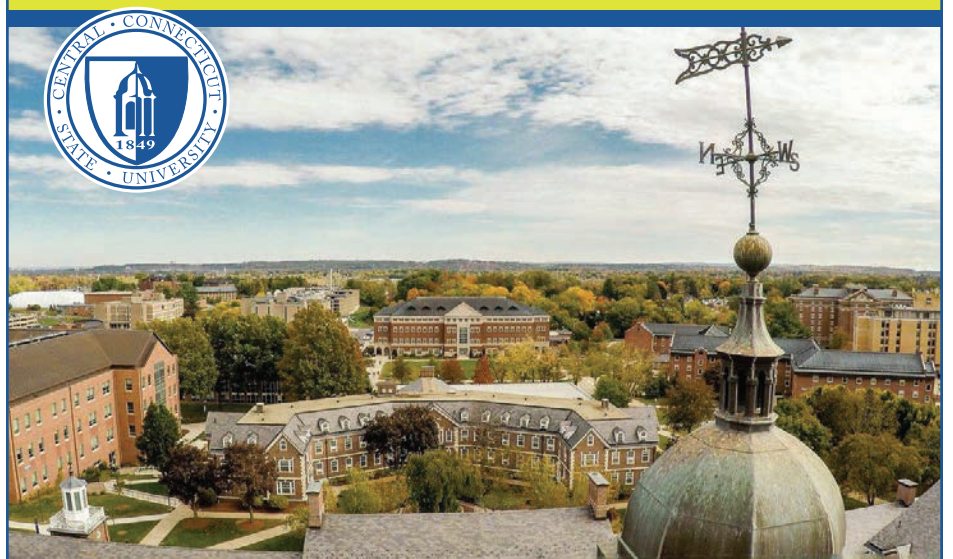
Dr. Aurora Dibner

Newington Family Dentistry
365 Willard Ave. • Newington • 860-666-7910
www.newingtonfamilydentistry.com



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 9, 2016 • 11am - 2pm



- Meet with faculty and visit with academic deans
- Learn more about our student service areas
- Walk through our residence halls
- Take a guided, walking tour of campus

**Register for our
OPEN HOUSE TODAY!**

www.ccsu.edu/openhouse

Questions: 860-832-2278

Achieving top results

Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Center opens new location on Market Square

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Whether it's recovering from an injury or training to be a high-performing athlete, the staff at the Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Center stands ready to help clients achieve their best.

The center officially opened its 16th and newest site in Connecticut Feb. 23 at 64 Market Square. Members of the Newington Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Roy Zartarian cut the ribbon and welcomed the business to town.

Joe Allen is the partner and director of the 2,100-square-foot Newington site. He's also the clinician and holds a doctorate of physical therapy. Right now he's offering free assessments as a way to get the business known around town.

"I really fell in love with this building. I feel like I was welcomed to this town," he said. "We were able to put some private treatment rooms in. We strive for clinical excellence."

Allen enjoys providing functional rehabilitation to his clients. In addition to treatment tables, there are a variety of exercise machines available to serve specific therapy needs.

Among the therapies they offer are sports medicine and vestibular rehab, or balance training. The center is designed to serve anyone who needs any form of musculoskeletal care.

Allen is trained in the

Graston Technique of physical therapy. He said it incorporates orthopedics and various instruments to perform soft tissue manipulations. He loves coming to work every day.

"What drives me is my passion for physical therapy," he said.

therapy has evolved over the years.

"Physical therapists are now musculoskeletal generalists. The body of research that supports what we do is just growing and growing," he said.

Clinic literature states it can help people who have neck

"We strive for clinical excellence."

– Joe Allen

Alan Balavender is president of the company. He grew up in New Britain and now lives in West Hartford, so he is familiar with Newington and what it has to offer.

"Newington is similar to other towns that we have been successful in," he said. "The primary focus that we look at is service delivery. We participate in all the major [insurance] networks in Connecticut."

Allen said he studies his sports medicine clients to watch how they perform the various physical tasks of their particular sport, which enables him to best design a program that will maximize their potential.

Referrals come from physicians, insurance companies and, to a large degree, from clients themselves; state law allows patients to seek physical therapy services without the need for a physician's approval.

Balavender said physical



Alan Balavender, left, is president of Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Centers. Joe Allen is a partner in the business as well as the clinical therapist at its new Newington location at 64 Market Square.

Photo by Mark Jahne

Victory Gardens Apartments located at 555 Willard Ave. Newington, CT

are now taking applications for affordable rental housing units. The property is offering spacious 1 bedroom flats and 2 & 3 bedroom townhomes with rents ranging from \$492 - \$1365, utilities included. This property is a smoke free community. There is a smoke free community. There is a preference for Veterans for all units; some units are set aside on a preferential basis for homeless households or those at risk of homelessness and eligible for site-based supportive services.

All applicants are subject to income and eligibility verification.

Applications are available from DeMarco Management Corporation, 117 Murphy Rd, Hartford, CT 06114; by phone 860-951-9411 x252 or 254; by email compliance@demarcomc.com; using the AT&T relay service by dialing 711

FOOTBEATS

carries a beautiful selection of fashionable, comfortable woman's footwear!

Well we do, we have Dansko, Keen, Birkenstock, Merrel, Reiker, Vionic with Orthoheel technology, Naot and so much more.



Footbeats ... Try us on for size!

FOOTBEATS
Comfort and Wide Shoes



110 Albany Tpke. #403, Canton, CT • 860-693-8522
420 Enfield St., Rt. 5, Enfield, CT • 860-745-5676



READ
LIFE
ONLINE AT
www.TurleyCT.com

SELLING OR BUYING?

Your Real Estate Resource.



Dick Peplau

(860) 463-2288

dick.peplau@cbmoves.com

COLDWELL BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

30+ Years Building Real Estate Relationships
by Serving & Advocating for my Clients

SEE better. LOOK better.



- Over 1,000 Contemporary & Classic Frames for the Entire Family
- Discounts on Most Insurance
- Contacts & Eye Exams
- 15% Military Discount
- Senior Discount
- Gift Certificates Available

**\$40⁰⁰
OFF**

Pair of Eyeglasses

Excludes Value Line. Some restrictions apply.
Not valid on previous purchases.
No other discounts, insurance or promotions apply.

the
eyeglass
place



*Serving the Newington area
since 1971 with unsurpassed
knowledge and personalized
individual attention*

Angela Daigle
Licensed Optician/Owner
32 Years Experience

2311 Berlin Tpke., Newington,
860.667.0921 EyeglassPlace.net
Tues-Fri 10-6. Sat 10-2



People notes



Clarice Hanna of New York City and **Michael Parker** of Newington are engaged to be married. He is the son of Don and Maria Parker of Newington. The groom-to-be is a design consultant for his own company and the bride-to-be is a luxury retail manager/buyer in Manhattan. A 2016 wedding is planned.



Photo by Middle Child Photography

Amy Marie Knowlen, formerly of Newington, and **Gregory Tyler Roonan**, formerly of Oceanport, New Jersey, are engaged to be married. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Knowlen of Newington. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Roonan of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. Knowlen is a graduate of Horry Georgetown Technical College and works as a medical coding specialist at Omega Medical Solutions. Roonan is a graduate of Horry Georgetown Technical College and is employed at a contracting company in Murrells Inlet. An April 30 wedding is planned at Wachsaw Plantation in Murrells Inlet.

Kelly Byrnes was named to the president's list at Western New England University.



Rachel Elliott, a Northwest Catholic High School soccer player, formalized her commitment to compete in college soccer at Assumption College. Alongside are her parents, Lawrence and Carrie Ann Elliott.

James Bronowicki, Stephen Cowell, Sarah Emerson, Benjamin Estey, Madison Forsander, Nicole Garcia, Allison Marino and Marlene Suarez were named to the dean's list at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Mitchell Ambruso, Christopher Nguyen, Selina Mendes, Michael Rubalsky, Alexander Skonieczny, Joseph Capossela and Heather DeLude were named to the dean's list at Springfield College.

Amanda Rodriguez and Alicia Rodriguez earned high honors at Mercy High School.

Samantha Gorski and Camden Tatsapaugh earned high honors on the dean's list at the University of New Hampshire.

Carly McCarthy earned high honors at the University High School of Science and Engineering. **Roshini Avula** and **James Mouthaan** earned honors.

Robert Boisvert, Melissa Brown, Eric Casey, Olivia Ciaffaglione, John DeLeo, Julia Delgado, Adrienne Fisher, Hailey Gagnon,

Matthew Gajowiak, Brian Huynh, Bartlomiej Kolcz, David Kusinski, Casey Luiz, Nicholas Mamet, Sean McCusker, Jennifer Pachocki, Heather Pizzoferrato, Daniel Sadowicz, Joseph Spada and Scott Veilleux were named to the dean's list at the University of Hartford.

Samuel Lostocco, Mary-Michaela Mancini, Steffi Marasigan, Sara Mazur, Mariah Mendes, Bethany Re, Adam Seguro and Alizandra Stamm were named to the dean's list at the University of Rhode Island.



Dr. Kevin McGrath of Newington was one of three physicians nationwide to receive the Distinguished Fellow Award by the American College of Allergy Asthma and Immunology. He is acting chief of the Division of Allergy at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. **NL**

Living **spaces**

Spring Home Improvement



A PRODUCT OF
TurleyCT Community Publications
TurleyCT.com | April 2016

LIVING Spaces

Staging to stay

Experts offer advice on how to fall in love with your home again

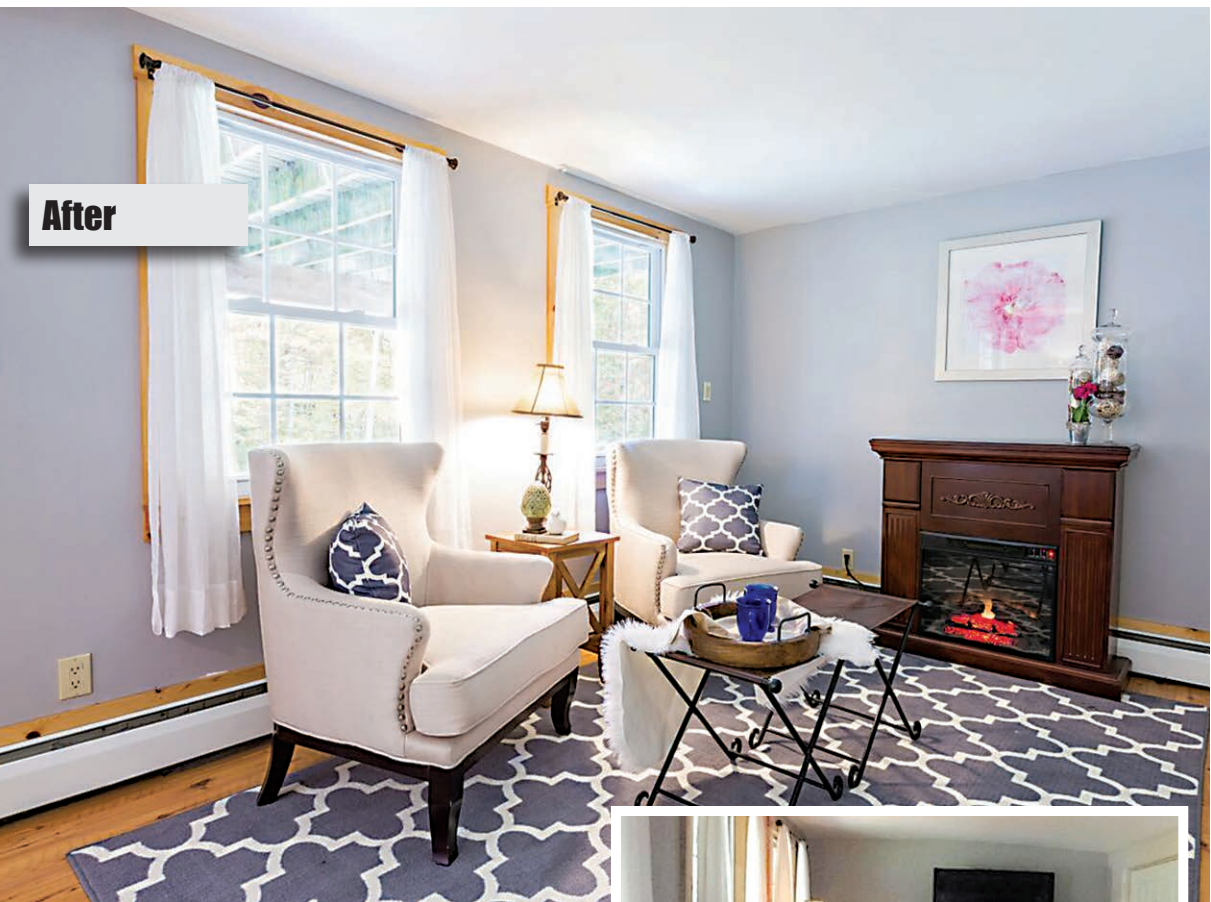
by Alicia B. Smith
Staff Writer

You loved it enough to buy your home all those years ago, but time has taken the gleam off the old abode and now you are ready to get out.

Circumstances require that some people move, but for those who truly would rather stay put but are tired of the same old furniture and fixings – there's a solution. Learn ways to make your home fresh and fall in love with it all over again.

Home stagers assist clients in making their houses beautiful so that potential buyers will envision themselves living in the space and make an offer. Their tips and techniques can also help you see your home in a new light.

Tamatha Wolfel, stager and owner of Infinite Home Design in Wethersfield, said, "There are



After

Infinite Home clients remade their bedroom into a warm and inviting space with new furniture and a rug. The fireplace came from another room in their house.

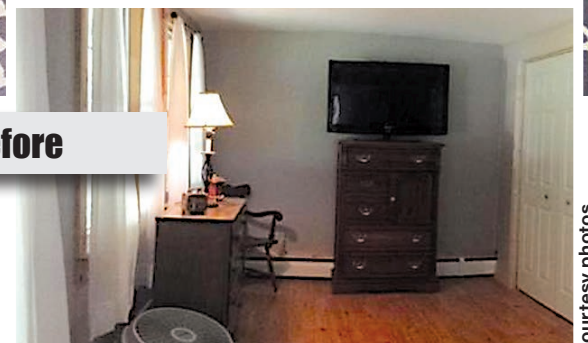
many ways you can freshen up your house if you want to put in the time; it can change the entire look."

When working with clients to sell their home, Wolfel suggests decluttering, removing odors and cleaning windows.

"The first rule of thumb is if it's seven years old, it should go," Wolfel said. "That is the cycle of trends."

Another detractor is clutter, no matter what kind – magazines, clothing or odd collections of stuff – because clutter makes a space look dated and smaller than it actually is. Wolfel suggests using bags to sort items: one for things to keep, one for things that can be sold and another for items to throw out.

Before



Courtesy photos

This is also a great time to go through the home and bring in new accessories, from curtains and throw pillows to new lamps, or just new lampshades and centerpieces. Accessories can update a space and add pops of color and texture all for a relatively small monetary investment. Sometimes all it can take is rearranging the art on the walls.

For those with some more time, painting rooms with a fresh coat of paint and even a new color is another way to make a huge impact.

"Painting is one of the best ways to freshen up a room," Wolfel said.

Woman-Owned & Family-Operated
Serving Greater Hartford Area Since 1978

24/7 Emergency 860-296-9624



Lic. # 0287509-P1

Si Parla
Italiano

Se Habla
Español



\$25 OFF
Gas/Electric
Water Heaters

\$100 OFF
New Boiler/Furnace
Installation

Complete Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling
Sewer/Drain Cleaning • Generators
Repairing Specialists, Sump Pumps, Gas Logs, Sewer and
Drain Lines, Garbage Disposals, Senior Discounts

030316

Salone Electric, Inc.

www.saloneelectric.com
saloneelectric@gmail.com



**Residential & Commercial
Electrical Contractor**

**Outdoor Landscape Lighting
and Service Upgrades • Generators**

Specializing in one-on-one customer service
experience for all your electrical needs!

Family-owned and operated since 1988.

ASK US ABOUT THE INCENTIVES FOR COMMERCIAL LED LIGHTING!

Office: 860-666-4532

Cell: 860-250-2589

CT LIC 0192094E1

STEPHEN OUELLETTE
HOME IMPROVEMENT

ROOFING & SIDING

Replacement Windows • Gutters
Decks • Additions

860-667-2160



Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured

Lic. #00556269

**HARVEY WINDOWS
& DOORS**

36022-01

LIVING Spaces

And paint can be applied to more than just walls. Wolfel said that a fresh coat of paint on a wooden piece of furniture, along with some new handles, changes the look and feel of a room.

Chalkboard paint is big now and adding some to the surface of a coffee table is a fun way to update the piece.

"If you have a dark wood set from the '80s, it's solid wood and beautiful and you don't want to throw it away, do it with chalk paint and put some new handles and you have a whole new set," she said.

"The first rule of thumb is if it's seven years old, it should go. That is the cycle of trends."

– Tamatha Wolfel, Infinite Home Design

With a bit of muscle and a few hours, rearranging furniture is another option – keeping in mind the less is more philosophy. Using fewer pieces of furniture in a space gives it a modern look.

Sometimes the placement of items is the change maker. Keeping a less cluttered mantel is important. If there are bookcases

in the room, rearrange the books so they are not strictly lined up horizontally on the shelves, rather, have a mix of horizontal and vertical books and add a decorative item or a vase next to a stack of books.

"A shelf that goes all the way across is not conducive to a fresh, modern look," Wolfel said.

Kitchens and bathrooms are still important to selling homes and Wolfel advised they not be overlooked when staging your own home to stay.

"I've seen the backsplash make and break deals," she said.

If it's too busy or gaudy, change it to something more contemporary.

Older cabinets can be a turnoff when selling a house, so chances are good that they are also not appealing to the homeowner either. They can be updated with a fresh coat of paint and new hardware.

Old counters? Apply a granite coating to create the look of this luxurious material, Wolfel suggested.

To update the bathroom, paint the old wooden vanity and buy new curtains; using only white towels "just makes it seem fresh and new," she said.

Other suggestions include painting the front door for a fresh and inviting feeling for you, not just your guests.

When working with clients, Wolfel will walk with them through each room of their home. Often, initially, they are hesitant to make changes, but by the time they get to

the third room, Wolfel said they begin to understand why staging is important. Wolfel suggested letting a good, trusted friend go through your home with you and make suggestions.

"The thing is," she said, "even stagers, when we go to sell our house, we get other stagers to do it; we are just so used to our surroundings we justify it all and say OK. It's always good to get an outside view, someone who is not critical. They may come up with something you never thought of before."

A thorough inventory of a home's contents can help identify pieces that might work better in another space.

For those who might feel intimidated about the process or feel they don't have the design chops to make a difference, there is hope.

Simsbury-based Danielle Needle, a professional home stager and redesign consultant who also works as a Realtor, suggests homeowners start by doing some research. Looking through home and garden magazines or searching online can help identify appealing designs to replicate.

"I think people feel they don't have enough space," Needle said, noting that a space can feel confining due to furniture placement and traffic patterns.

For Needle, who owned a home staging company in Florida, the biggest thing a homeowner can do is "lighten and brighten."

Reupholstery • Slipcovers • Fabric • Furniture • Custom Window Treatments • Wallpaper • Flooring

SPRING SALE



REUPHOLSTER a SOFA or 2 CHAIRS for \$529*

*Plus the cost of our fabric

10% OFF ALL FABRICS
*Previous orders do not apply. Must present coupon at time of order.

Old Lyme 860-434-4242 Hartford 860-244-3475 Toll Free 877-688-3475

Family owned & operated showroom & workroom since 1929
EHRlich DECORATING & UPHOLSTERY LLC
*Previous orders do not apply. Only applies with purchase of our fabric.
Showroom & Workroom 3324 Main Street, Hartford, CT
www.ehrlichdecorating.com

Not Affiliated With Ehrlich Interiors in Farmington

Reupholstery • Slipcovers • Fabric • Furniture • Custom Window Treatments • Wallpaper • Flooring





LYNX PROFESSIONAL

WEBER GRILLS STARTING AT \$399!

It's Grillin' Time!

Alfresco
Open Air Culinary Systems

firegear Outdoors

SALES ■ DELIVERY ■ INSTALLATION ■

CAFD **Connecticut Appliance & Fireplace Distributors**
50 Graham Place, Southington • 860-621-9313 • cafd.com

LIVING Spaces



This could mean something as simple as putting brighter light bulbs in lamps, adding new lighting or swapping out dark window treatments for lighter ones. Paint, too, can go a long way

to making an impact. It can help brighten up a room, and Needle suggested staying with neutral colors.

“Just putting on a neutral color makes a world of

difference,” she said.

Look down, too – at the flooring. Old carpet can make a space feel uninspired. If it’s not possible to remove older carpeting, Needle suggested having it professionally cleaned, which will brighten it up and help with any odors that may be lurking. If one is able to install new flooring, selecting lighter colors will make a difference.

There are easy and reasonably priced ways to make the bathroom and kitchen stand out, too. Needle said laminate countertops could be painted, as can cabinets, which will have a big impact. Adding new hardware also helps. If the budget allows, investing in new, updated appliances is another way to go.

For the bathrooms, Needle suggested putting in a pedestal sink, explaining it’s new and takes up less space.

There are other simple projects that Needle has done herself that can make a change for the better. If there is a piece of furniture that might be dated but has sentimental value, adding a new slipcover is an option. Any artwork that homeowners love can have a fresh new vibe by just swapping

FERRARI'S

APPLIANCE

We Carry All Top Brands!

We Finance!

Sales Service Parts

- Dishwashers
- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Laundry
- Microwaves
- Gas Ranges
- Electric Ranges
- Hoods
- Wall Ovens
- Air Conditioners
- Grills
- Specials

460 New Britain Ave., Newington 860-436-9993

Tour our virtual showroom at Ferrarisappliance.com

HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

MAY MARKET

May 6-7
10am-4pm

Home, Garden & Gourmet with 65+ Exhibitors

Featured Speaker: Alexa Hampton

hillstead.org for tickets

Presenting Sponsor
Simsbury Bank
Bank this way.

HARMONY

Home Improvement

Creating a Harmony customer, contractor & community

ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS & more...

CALL NOW for our SPRING ROOFING SALE

CALL NOW for a FREE upgrade to lifetime shingles with this ad only

860-645-8899

lic. #604200/ Fully Insured/Free Estimates

Factory Certified with **CertainTeed** GAF

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE



LIVING Spaces

the frame or painting the one it already has.

"They have that 'aha' moment, 'I never thought to do that,'" is often the response Needle hears from clients. "They are actually really grateful you helped them with a vision."

The vision shared by Ridgewood Designs co-owners Leslie Ryan and Libby Gallant includes softer colors and decluttering. Twenty years of experience has enabled them to make quick suggestions on how to fall in love with your home all over again.

Paint goes a long way toward updating a home, Ryan said, noting that gray is a popular color along with softer coastal colors.

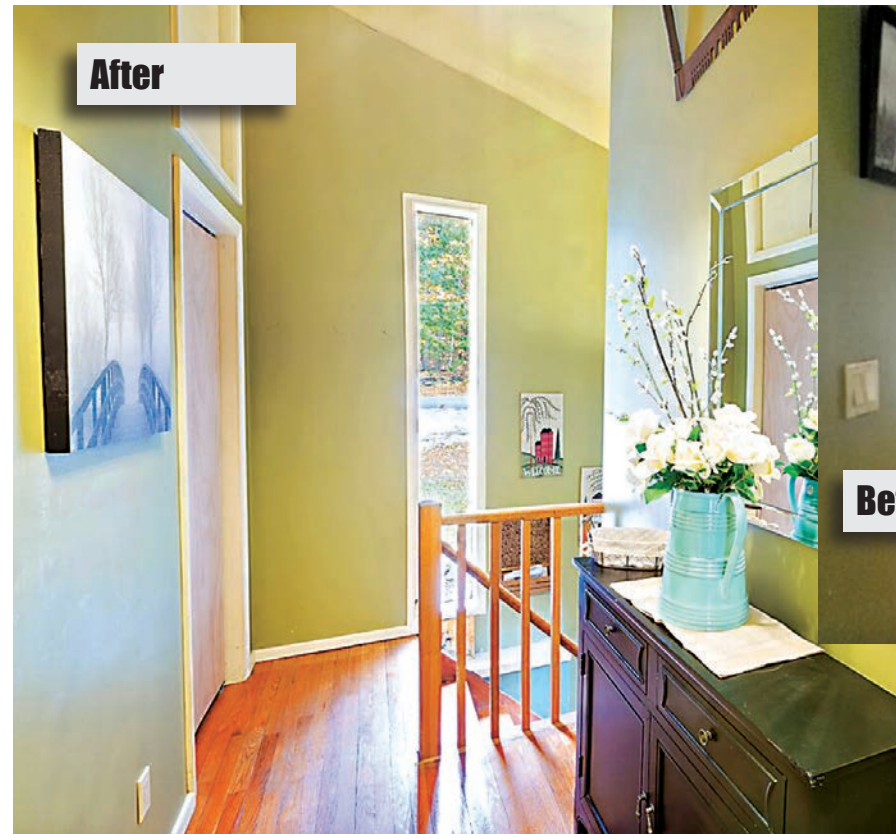
"The trend is no longer the Crayola crayon box colors where every room is a different color," she said. Rather, choose one soft color and paint the rooms the same throughout the home.

Gallant suggested replacing old wallpaper, explaining that although wallpaper is in at the moment, painting is better, quicker and less expensive.

Decluttering is another way to improve the look of a home. That includes moving out extra furniture, clearing off shelves, removing outdated window treatments and taking everything off the refrigerator.

"Sometimes nothing is better than something," Ryan said.

It would be a good idea to deep clean the house as well, have carpets



Polishing wood, washing windows and swapping out old pieces for a beveled mirror, a narrow console and a small area rug make for a more modern entry.

Courtesy photos

shampooed, or better yet, if there is hardwood underneath, remove the carpet all together.

Updating photographs on display also goes a long way in keeping things fresh.

"If your kids are in college and you still have their baby pictures out, it's time for a fresh look," Gallant said.

When switching out photos, it would be a good time to swap the frames, too, and opt for matching frames rather than a mix of colors or

styles. Those that match will help create a composed collection, Ryan said.

Other ideas include having any popcorn ceilings in the home skim coated and painting the ceiling with clean, white paint.

Changing out light fixtures, Gallant said, was another way to update a room's look.

They echoed other experts, saying time and money spent in the kitchen is well spent.

Gallant suggested painting the

cabinets gray or white for a fresh and clean look.

For "an amazing transformation" in the bathroom, Ryan suggested giving the old pink, green or orange tub a white surface.

To freshen up a room, Gallant proposed adding pops of color with pillows and throws that can be purchased at any number of places.

"When we go to stage a home, sometimes it does happen. People come back and say, 'Wow, I don't want to leave,'" Ryan said. **NL**

PLAY, RELAX

or even better, just do both!

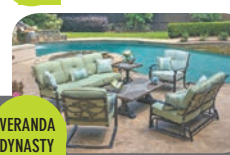
BILLIARDS • GAMEROOM FURNITURE • BARSTOOLS



DYNASTY FIRE PIT



SOL NAPA SOFA



VERANDA DYNASTY

Come see our extensive selection of Outdoor Furniture!

T & M
BILLIARDS & BARSTOOLS

NORTH WINDHAM
107 BOSTON POST RD
NORTH WINDHAM, CT
PHONE: 860.456.4231

ROCKY HILL
1904 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY
ROCKY HILL, CT
PHONE: 860.257.8332

TMAMUSEMENTS.COM



d641226



One Call Cuts It All!

- Fertilizing Programs
- Weekly Lawn Care & Renovation
- Spring & Fall Clean-up
- Mulch & Stone Installation
- Shrub Trimming & Removal
- Flower Bed Edging & Maintenance
- Planting, De-thatching, Aeration
- Tree & Stump Removal
- Basement/Garage Cleanouts/Dump Runs
- Snow Removal
- Retaining Walls and Pavers

Rocco's
Landscaping, LLC
860-995-0527
FREE ESTIMATES

Licensed and Insured
Lic. # HIC. 0627393

LIVING Spaces



Ask the experts

The LIFE papers asked local real estate experts a few questions related to the current real estate market. Here is what they had to say:

Q. What advice do you have for buyers and sellers in the current market?

A. “Here is my advice to buyers and sellers in today’s market: do not wait. Sellers: many homeowners feel that prices will go higher and so they’d like to wait for that. Anyone who bought in 2007 or before bought at the height of the real estate market and are eagerly waiting for those prices to return. Some homeowners like to wait until the “spring market.” In the winter months, inventory is typically lower,

therefore there is less competition. In the spring, there is always a flood on homes coming on the market and now you are competing with much more inventory. Buyers: when the market is busiest in the spring, do not hesitate to make an offer on a home you love. Chances are one or more other buyers are also in love with that home. By waiting, two things can happen: the house gets sold while you are waiting, or you get into a multiple offer situation.”

-Rosemary Gunning, sales manager, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, West Hartford

A. “My advice for buyers is to narrow down your search to what is manageable. Pick your top three towns and start there. Stay within

a tight price range with no more than a \$25,000-\$30,000 variance. Additionally, try to look beyond the minor cosmetic issues that can make a house look dated. You might be passing up a gem just because it doesn’t have that Pottery Barn look.

Lastly, don’t wait too long to make the offer when you see what you want. If you perceive it to be a good deal, someone else will too and then you could end up in a bidding war. For sellers, come out of the gate with your house looking its absolute best. Clear out the clutter, remove excess furniture in rooms and make the house sparkle so it is “showroom ready.” If you can improve the look of a room by just painting it or removing some wallpaper, do it. Even minor cosmetic work can lower the final sale price

of your home by thousands of dollars if buyers perceive it as needing “a lot of work.” Price your house aggressively. This is no market to speculate; and the longer that house sits on the market, the lower the final sale price.”

-Joanne Breen, broker/owner, ERA Sargis-Breen Real Estate Co., Newington

A. “My advice is to be flexible. The market is in transition. There are homes that are going under contract with multiple offers right away and there are homes that are still sitting for many months. Buyers and sellers should heed the advice of their licensed agent and be prepared to adjust their buying and selling goals accordingly. Overall, the market is heading up, so it is a

LIVING Spaces



“When the market is busiest in the spring, do not hesitate to make an offer on a home you love. Chances are one or more other buyers are also in love with that home.”

great time to buy with rates still at historic lows.”

*-Robert L. Levine, broker/owner,
Hart Real Estate LLC, West Hartford*

Q. What misconceptions are common among buyers and sellers?

A. “There are many real estate Internet sites that purport to be the resource to use to estimate value of the home you are selling or buying. While they can be helpful tools, the best way to understand the current real estate climate and get a more accurate value on your home is to use the professional services of a licensed Realtor. A misconception is that sellers and buyers net more money not using a Realtor. In fact, statistics show that sellers who use Realtors net more money. Buyers who use a buyer's agent are more successful in attaining their real estate goals.”

*-Margaret Wilcox, Realtor,
William Raveis, Glastonbury*

BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HomeServices

New England
Properties

Cathy Hall, Realtor

You can expect the utmost professionalism and dedication to all of your real estate needs from Cathy Hall.

Cathy is there to help you from your very first meeting to the final closing, whether you are buying or selling.

Equipped with the best tools and technology, Cathy will guide you and protect you. Buying or selling a home is a major financial and emotional undertaking, and it will really pay to have a professional on your side.



Cathy Hall

Cell: 860-559-6643

Office: 860-666-5656

E-mail: chall@bhhsne.com

Web: chall@bhhsneproperties.com

- 32 years of selling Real Estate in Connecticut
- Member of GHAR, NAR and CAR
- G.R.I. and SRES certificates in Real Estate
- #1 Agent in Newington 2010-2014

**No one Knows Newington
Better Than Cathy Hall**

30C Fenn Road, Newington, CT 06111

© 2014 An independently operated member of BHH Affiliates. Equal Housing Opportunity.

bhhsNEproperties.com



WE'LL GUIDE YOU HOME.

ERA Sargis-Breen Real Estate

Joanne Breen will be celebrating 38 years in real estate this fall. Together with her late business partner, Sam Sargis, Joanne has been a broker-owner of ERA Sargis-Breen in Newington since 1992 and they opened their 2nd office in Berlin in 2005.

Two-time recipients of ERA's national Jim Jackson Award for Customer Satisfaction, 2012 ERA Hall of Fame inductee and 2014 Commitment to Excellence Award winner, Joanne attributes her success and that of her company to paying attention to the details of each transaction and treating every client like family. Joanne has never lost her enthusiasm for real estate whether it be training agents new to the business, working with clients or interacting with other realtors. Joanne is 2016 President of the Greater Hartford Association of Realtors which has over 3500 members. Always keeping an eye to the future, Joanne is especially excited about ERA's new ZAP internet platform which is taking the real estate industry to a whole new level of customer service that she and her sales associates can offer their clients.



**Joanne Breen
Broker-Owner of
ERA Sargis-Breen
Real Estate**

66 Cedar St., Suite 202
Newington, CT 06111

Office 860-666-5607 x 201
www.joannebreen.com



Margo Mikunda

I was born in Poland and came to America in 1980. At that time in Poland, all housing belonged to the government, so selling real estate seemed like such an unusual path for me. Since then I have been serving my clients for 28 years!

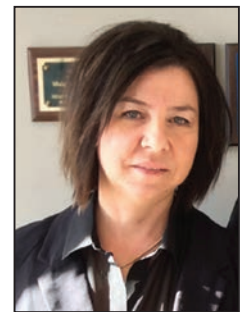
Before I stated my own firm, I worked for several other real estate agencies for 22 years. I opened Complete Real Estate in 2012. For many years I worked exclusively as a buyers agent, so I understand all of the problems and issues associated with purchasing a home. This gives me the upper hand when I represent sellers, because I know how to ensure a smooth transaction.

Complete Real Estate is a small, family owned business. Both of my sons, who are UConn graduates workd with me. We are passionate about real estate, and our mission is client satisfaction. I offer honesty, integrity, experience, education, and the utmost of care and love for what I do.

My education is extensive, including GRI (graduate real estate institute), CDPE (certified distress property expert), SRS (seller representative specialist) and RENE (real estate negotiation expert). I have also received the multi-year 5 star award by CT Magazine and Top Producer by Hartford Magazine. I always have time for you! Call me for all of your real estate needs!

**Margo Mikunda, Broker Owner GRI, CDPE
860-559.6485**

Five Star Real Estate Agent - Awarded by CT Magazine 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015
Complete Real Estate 860-665-1000
142 Market Square, Newington, CT 06111



**Margo Mikunda, Owner
860-559-6485**

LIVING Spaces

A. "The biggest one buyers and sellers have regarding our business is about how agents get paid. Most people seem to think the agent gets the whole commission for him or herself. In reality, the commission is split up between several entities. In the end, the agent may only make 1 or 2 percent of a 6 percent commission. Out of this, the agents pay all their expenses, including the cost of equipment necessary to run their businesses. Any additional professional training that agents take is also their financial responsibility. Our industry has high business and ethical standards, to which agents pledge to adhere. An agent cannot risk losing his/her license by unethical behavior, even when asked by a client to do so (which happens more often than one might guess). Another common misconception right now, specifically held by buyers, is that if they sign a Buyer Representation Agreement with a broker to look at properties, they

will be obligated to pay the commission if they buy one. In fact, 99.99 percent of the time, the seller still pays the total commission for rentals as well as property sales."

-Jane von Holzhausen, manager, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Avon

A. "The most common misconception among sellers today is that prices are on the rise. In fact, they are flat and even trending down for the past several years. The volume of sales statewide was up nearly 20 percent in 2015, but the median value of homes statewide was down nearly 5 percent. In January 2016, sales were up almost 25 percent from last January, but the median sales price was still flat. Another common misconception of sellers is that the process to sell their property will be drawn out. If a property is priced accurately, the average number of days on market is under 30 days, and there are

actually homes that are receiving multiple bids. There is a shortage of good inventory in today's marketplace. As far as buyers go, the most common misconception is that the house they will buy will be perfect. Buyers are taking home inspection reports too literally. Sellers are not willing to upgrade every item in their home just because they aren't brand new in order to consummate a sale. This situation is creating negotiating difficulties between buyers and sellers."

-Mike Tracy, office leader, Berkshire Hathaway New England Properties, Newington

Q. What trends in pricing have you noticed over the last six months?

A. "Prices on homes that are in good condition and priced right are increasing. They are selling very quickly, especially in the first time homebuyer range: \$175,000-\$350,000. It's very competitive and

sellers are paying attention. There are a lot of buyers out there, and not a vast amount of inventory. However, buyers are still not willing to pay whatever the seller wants. They are very informed and set ideals for what they can pay."

-Tracey McCleary, office manager, Re/Max Precision, Newington

Q. How are current mortgage rates impacting buying and selling?

A. "The current rates are still amazing, but the fact is they are rising, and if someone is planning on getting into a house, now is the time to do it. As long as the buyer gets a standard, non-variable rate, even though taxes and other expenses will go up over time, your interest rate won't. The rates still are so low that paying down the principle of a loan is much easier and makes owning a home affordable."

-Tracey McCleary, office manager, Re/Max Precision, Newington **NL**

WILLIAM RAVEIS

— REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE —
The Largest Family-Owned Real Estate Company in the Northeast

Diane Gombieski

I have been a Professional Realtor since 1984 during which time I have accumulated a list of achievements as top listing, selling and producing agent. I live and work in the tri-town area and have the knowledge to make your move a pleasurable experience. Many of my clients are repeat clients since they know they will get full time service and an online resource for meeting all their real estate needs. Call me if you want a SOLD sign or are a first time buyer.



Diane Gombieski
GRI, ABR, CRS, CHP, AHWD
860-977-4857
Email: gombieski@snet.net
dianegombieski.raveis.com

Multi-million Dollar Award
President's Club
Circle of Excellence
Greater Hartford Board of Realtors Award
Masters Award
Customer Service Award

raveis.com

"The best website in real estate"

Wethersfield, Rocky Hill & Newington

WILLIAM RAVEIS

— REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE —
The Largest Family-Owned Real Estate Company in the Northeast

Maria Latina

I love helping my clients realize their homeownership dreams. With my attention to detail and hard work I will ensure my clients' satisfaction.

Servicing my clients' needs above and beyond their expectations, handling all the details and making their move a pleasurable experience is my goal.

I am committed to providing you with exceptional real estate services 7 days a week.



Maria Latina CHP
Text or call
(860) 212-2462
Maria.Latina@raveis.com
MariaLatina.raveis.com

**Celebrating 10 years
in the business.**

**CHP - Certified Homeownership
Professional Designation**

raveis.com

"The best website in real estate"

Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Newington



LIVING Spaces



Bathroom breaks

Look what you can do with \$500 and a weekend

by Alicia B. Smith
Staff Writer

Home decorating shows, magazine articles and Pinterest photos can leave you feeling that your bathroom is inadequate. While prices for high-end fixtures and features can soar into the thousands, significant changes can be made with a budget of \$500 and a weekend's worth of work.

David Litchfield of David Litchfield Building & Remodeling in Simsbury suggested taking a close look at the bathroom.

Paint is not expensive and makes a big impact. Litchfield

suggested that a fresh coat of paint can go a long way but warned that the project is not as easy as some may think and that careful attention needs to be paid with any painting project so it comes out well. He suggested using a neutral color.

Work on the grout in the room as well.

"Cleaning the grout and getting the grout in good shape and looking at poorly installed silicon or grout and caulking around the tubs and showers" is important, he said.

Investing in a new shower door can be a good investment, Litchfield

said. Sliding doors that span a tub cost \$300 and up, while those for a shower stall are less.

"It may be a major improvement over what is there now," he said.

If the bathroom is truly decorated from another era – think pink toilet and tub – it might be worth getting a new toilet and investigate the cost of repainting the tub.

Replacing a toilet can be done in an afternoon, and a simple white toilet can be found starting at \$100.

Bathtubs can be purchased for as low as \$250, but replacing them is not an easy job. Replacing sinks is

slightly easier, and white pedestal models can be found at home improvement stores starting at less than \$200.

The easiest method would be to refinish tubs, sinks and tile with one of the spray- or brush-on formulas in bright white. Prices start at about \$50 for one tub or two sinks. Once applied, the fixture must cure for three to five days before use. **NL** More information on David Litchfield Building & Remodeling of Simsbury can be found at davidlitchfieldbuilding.com or by calling 860-651-0123.



WANTED:
PAINTINGS • FINE ART
ALSO BUYING:
JEWELRY • GOLD • SILVER • POTTERY • MODERN FURNITURE
MOST ITEMS OF VALUE
10 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR FINE ART PURCHASES
www.freeartappraiser.com
860-306-6338 (Gary)
Private Sales and Brokering

Everything for Your Home

Vinyl Siding
Trim Fabrications
Seamless Gutters & Gutter Protection Systems
Roofing
Kitchen & Bathroom Renovations
Granite & HD Laminate Countertops
Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance
Grass Cutting Service
Deck & Railing Systems
Windows
Doors

THE MAGEE COMPANIES
Remodeling Contractors
Property Managers
Professionalism Since 1972

CT Lic. # 0510051 • MA Lic. # 162395 • FULLY INSURED & BONDED • IN-HOUSE EMPLOYEES

860-953-2200
7 CODY STREET • WEST HARTFORD, CT

MageeCompanies.com

SumSetter
AWNINGS
AUTHORIZED DEALER

1972 43rd 2015
ANNIVERSARY

BBB
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

LIVING Spaces

Spring *cleaning*

Make the most of this annual ritual

Compiled by Lynn Woike

Area experts offer tricks of the trade when tackling spring cleaning.

“Break down spring cleaning projects into tasks that can be managed in the time you have available. It could be a room at a time, or even one drawer or one shelf a day. This method prevents you from becoming overwhelmed and allows you to better focus on a particular task.” *Heather Feinsinger, owner, Re-Style Your Closets LLC, Simsbury*

“Assemble a cleaning basket or bucket with all the supplies you’ll need. Carry it from room to room to tackle jobs both big and small so you’ll have all your gear in one handy container.” *Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury*

“The products you use can help with the cleaning process. I really love straight alcohol on mirrors because of the residue build-up from hair products and makeup. It also works well on glass shower door soap scum

with baking soda and a Magic Eraser. Just be careful that there is not a sealant on the shower door and do not get any on brass framing or wood.” *Sandy Wheeler of Morawski Cleaning LLC, West Simsbury*



WET BASEMENT?

TRUST IN OUR 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Rocco Balesano Contracting LLC

Foundation Cracks
Basement Drainage Systems
Yard Drainage
Sump Pumps
Window/Dry Wells, etc.

Call for a free estimate and never deal with a wet basement again!

860-236-0071

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
FULLY INSURED

ALL WORK GUARANTEED
SENIOR DISCOUNT

ANDY WOTTON PLUMBING & HEATING, LLC

(860) 833-8153

Old fashion, honest, reliable service at a reasonable price. All residential plumbing, repairs done from leaky faucets to oil/gas heat conversions.

Call today and we will show you quality still makes a difference!



Factory Direct
Ready Made Valances ~ Bedding ~ Pillows ~ Trim
Accessories ~ Custom Drapery ~ Fabrics ~ Furniture
In Home Consultations



860.951.8110

www.rlfhome.com

30 Bartholomew Avenue ~ Hartford

Mon. - Fri. 9:30 - 5:00 ~ Sat. 9:30 - 3:00

**MULCH,
TOPSOIL,
& ORGANIC
COMPOST**

grow
something
special



HARVEST
New England

We Deliver!

www.harvestpower.com
860.674.8855

LIVING Spaces

"If you haven't worn it in a year, toss it. Also, toss it if you don't absolutely love it. Don't try to convince yourself you're going to wear that bridesmaid dress again when you hated wearing it the first time."

Mike Pendergast, owner, Great Closets of New England, Simsbury

"Pick one corner in the room as your starting point and move in a circular path from there. Always start on high surfaces and work your way down to the floor."

Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury

"Devise a cleaning schedule once the bulk of the spring cleaning is done so it won't seem so daunting next year: mudroom on Mondays, toilets and tubs on Tuesdays, workspace on Wednesdays, etc."

Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury

"Toss expired foods and spices in the pantry. Sanitize the refrigerator and freezer. Reorganize the pantry, cupboards, refrigerator and freezer, rotating soon-to-expire ingredients to the front. Sanitize fridge and freezer."

Emily Weissberg, owner, Organize Me! By Emily Weissberg, Avon

"Groove to some upbeat music while you work. A few good tunes will keep you moving and boost your spirits. The 'Frozen' movie theme song 'Let it Go' comes to mind as you release the dust and clutter from your home."

Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury

"Identify a spot for donations. As you begin your spring cleaning, it's always good to purge any unwanted or unloved items

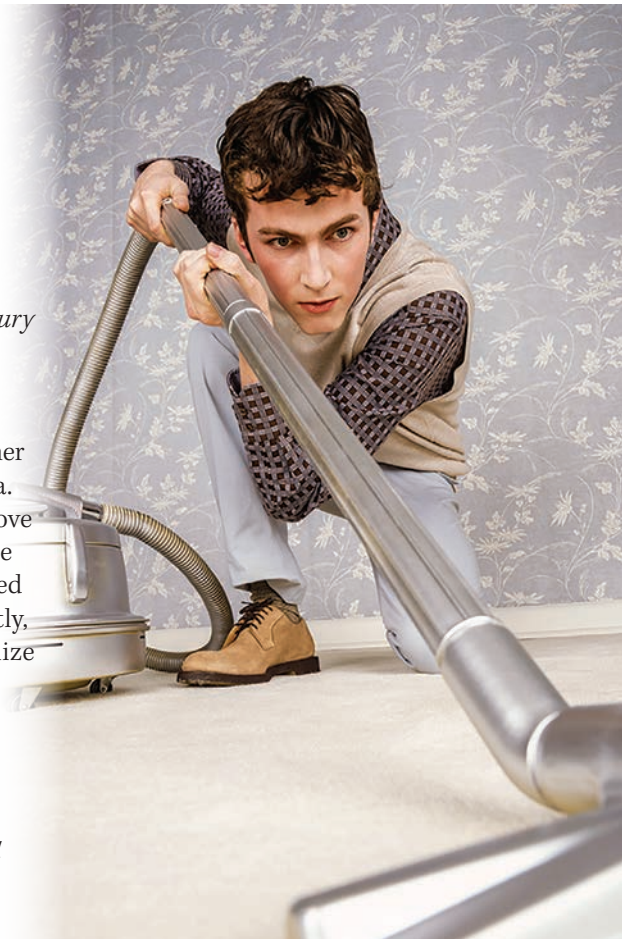
you find. It helps to have a box or bag to corral these things to take to your local charity. Continue to use the spot throughout the year so you make it a habit to place your castoffs in this designated location."

Sarah Soboleski, owner, Classically Organized, Glastonbury

"When handling large projects such as a garage, choose a corner and focus only on that one area. Discard the true garbage. Remove unwanted items that have some value and can be sold or donated and place them elsewhere. Lastly, create a better system to organize and store what's left."

Donna Finocchiaro, owner, Organized East of the River, Marlborough NL

Next month we suggest how and where to get rid of items you no longer want or need.



**MORE THAN YOU EXPECT...
FOR LESS THAN YOU THINK!**

Professional landscape design, installation and maintenance since 1989

**Mention this ad & receive
10% OFF! SPRING
Clean-ups**
New Customers only

- Paver patios, walkways, driveways, pool decks, steps and landings
- Complete property maintenance
- Total lawn renovations
- Mulching & Seasonal Floral Programs
- Lawncare including clean-ups, mowing, dethatching and more

LENARES
LANDSCAPE & DESIGN LLC
Professional Landscape Contractors
860.666.3838
Newington, CT

DESIGN * BUILD * MAINTAIN
www.lenareslandscape.com

B-1129



LLOYD FLANDERS
WOVEN FOR LIFE

SEASIDE CASUAL
MADE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII

Spring Sale

Woodard

GLOSTER

**NEW ENGLAND
PATIO & HEARTH**
There's A Style To Living

974 Silas Deane Highway • Wethersfield (860) 563-1000
65 Albany Turnpike (Rt. 44) • Canton (860) 693-0436
www.newenglandpatioandhearth.com

Outdoor Furniture • Wicker • Fireplace Furnishings

LIVING Spaces



A place for everything and everything in its place

Compiled by Lynn Woike

Create order from chaos throughout your house with these helpful organizing tips from local experts.

Boxes

"For organization, I like boxes and bins, but the important thing is for the contents to be 'transparent.' I don't mean that the box or bin needs to be clear, only that labeling is crucial. If you have small children who you'd like to encourage to pick up after themselves, placing pictures of the items contained in the bins can help. And before you think about throwing everything in the bins just to clean up the house, purge first. Do you really need 10 cell phone chargers?"

—Monica Katzen, owner, *Mind My Life*, Simsbury



Suitcases

"Vintage suitcases are great for storage – they can be stacked and used as an end table or nightstand next to a sofa or bed. They can hold anything from remote controls and magazines to sheets and towels for guests." —Arlene Carr, owner, *Revival Home*, West Hartford

Baskets

"Easily retrieve items stored in your pantry, refrigerator, craft closet or playroom with these grab-and-go baskets. You can purchase them at most big box stores and they come in different colors and sizes." —Sarah Soboleski, owner, *Classically Organized*, Glastonbury



clothing, stuffed animals, bedding – and the 20-quart ones for light

bulbs, extension cords, candles, paper goods and other items."

—Donna Finocchiaro, owner, *Organized East of the River*, Marlborough

Clear bins

"My favorite products are clear Sterilize bins with white lids. They come in many sizes, are affordable, stack well and fit portable shelving units typically used in basements, garages and closets. I place content labels on one long and one short side for easy viewing. Use the large 56-quart bins for soft goods –



CUSTOM FLOORS

Since 1972

TILE*CARPET*WOOD*LUXURY VINYL



APRIL SALE!

**15% OFF
ALL FLOORS**

(excludes items already on sale)

**20% OFF
ANY AREA RUG**

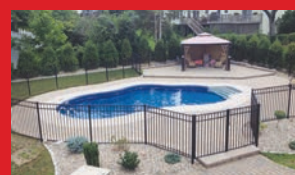
HIC # 0550863

Professional Installation by our own crews • Personal Service • Competitive Pricing

1845 Silas Deane Hwy., Rocky Hill, CT

860-257-0581

Visit our website www.customfloorsct.net



WALKWAYS • WALLS • PATIOS • PAVERS • POOLSCAPES

DELIVERY OF MULCH, STONE & TOP SOIL

Landscape Design • Lawn Maintenance • Pruning • Stump Grinding
Brush Chipping for Trees • Bobcat & Excavator Services
Grading of Lawn Areas for Sod and Seed • Debris Hauling
Installation & Removal of Plants, Shrubs & Trees • Hedge & Shrub Trimming

Griffin
LANDSCAPING, INC.

Check out our updated photos

860.257.3146

GRIFFINLANDSCAPING.COM



LIVING Spaces



Lockers

"Putting lockers by your daily entrance gives everyone in the family a place to store items that come and go regularly – from coats and gloves to backpacks and sporting equipment. Durable and fun, lockers come in a variety of styles that can also help organize mud rooms, game rooms, bedrooms, bathrooms and garages." –Paul Calafiore, owner, DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen, Newington



Door Rack

"Organizers that go over or behind doors are a boon for people with limited space. These often overlooked areas can be used to store almost anything, including shoes, pantry items, cleaning supplies and craft materials." – Heather Feinsinger, owner, Re-Style Your Closets LLC, Simsbury



Hooks

"Garage storage space is limited for most of us and it usually houses odd-shaped tools as well. To maximize the space, use walls effectively. Hooks are a perfect way to get things off the floor." –Mike Pendergast, owner, Great Closets of New England, Simsbury



Chinese boxes

"Everything from paper clips, cotton balls and tea to sewing supplies can be neatly organized in a collection of colorful antique Chinese cloisonné boxes. They look great on a desk or dresser." – Arlene Carr, owner, Revival Home, West Hartford. **NL**



Spring Market is Here!



WETHERSFIELD \$559,000
Spectacular views of the reservoir!
Many updates plus finished lower level!



ROCKY HILL \$197,900
Large townhouse with eat-in kitchen,
finished lower level & garage!



MIDDLETOWN \$316,000
Enjoy the quiet side of town in
this lovely Colonial built in 2000!



BLOOMFIELD \$229,900
Immaculate & spacious 4-bedroom
Colonial with beautiful oak floors!



Maureen Horowitz ABR, GRI, SRES

860-205-9678

www.maureenhorowitz.com
maureen.horowitz@cbmoves.com



1331 Silas Deane Hwy, Wethersfield

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | New England
HomeServices Properties

Communication is key and my clients come first!!

I am dedicated to providing you with the finest professional service available. References available upon request from past clients.



Maria Parker
860.306.6040

mariaparker@bhhsNE.com

Licensed in CT and MA

I am ready to help you with:

- Selling & Buying
- Investment Properties
- Vacation Homes
- Relocating out-of-state
- Foreclosure or Short Sale
- Rentals
- Competitive Market Analysis
- Home Staging & Curb Appeal
- Complete library for Resources & Referrals of Contractors & Licensed Specialists
- Multi Families
- Land and New Construction
- Equestrian Properties

NEWINGTON • 30C Fenn Road

bhhsNEproperties.com

Bean Tree Baby opens its doors

Retailer and information hub shifts from online to storefront operation

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

For Heather Huebner and Clover Heske, business and personal life always mix.

As co-owners of Bean Tree Baby, the women have made it their mission to provide resources and products for new parents that they wish they had seen when they became mothers.

"We've always run the business with our real life in mind," Huebner said. "We never had the intention of being some big online corporation."

Started in January of 2010, Bean Tree Baby was as an online-only retailer of "babywearing" supplies, primarily a variety of wraps that allow parents of infants and babies to carry their children close to the body while leaving their arms free.

Although the business began six years ago, the friendship between Huebner and Heske started years earlier, around the time when Huebner had her first child. The two met while working at a company that focused on natural parenting.

At the time, Heske already had her first child and the two found they shared a passion for their work.

When that company closed, both women continued to learn more about natural parenting and specifically babywearing techniques.



The duo decided to travel to New York City to earn their certification as babywearing educators.

"We both really liked the educational aspect of it," Huebner said. "After that, our passion, particularly for teaching people to be informed

on what kind of carrier works best, just grew. We knew we had to do this."

When their online business began in 2010 they also started offering private and group classes to new parents who wanted to learn more about babywearing.

"Being able to use a baby carrier with confidence is a wonderful tool to have in your parenting tool belt," Huebner said. "It really can make your life much easier."

In addition to providing comfort and ease to new parents, Huebner stressed that babywearing is also beneficial for both the child and the relationship he or she forms with the parents.

"There are many scientific and biological reasons why wearing your baby is wonderful," Huebner said.

She added that in comparison to most mammals, humans are born immaturely.

"We aren't like horses or other four-legged animals that are up and



Photos by Allie Rivera

Founded by friends Heather Huebner and Clover Heske, Bean Tree Baby offers natural options for parents of infants and babies, specializing in babywearing wraps and babywearing techniques.

walking within hours," she said.

"Babies have a biological need to be held so that they have warmth and comfort and food."

Additionally, Huebner said that wearing babies on the chest or back

Are Dental Implants Right For You?

Replacing teeth with dental implants can be an excellent option for patients to restore lost function and recreate a great-looking smile for those that have suffered from tooth loss. Implants are titanium posts inserted into the jawbone to replace the root portion of a missing tooth, which fuse with the bone, keeping it living and stimulated and your face youthfully supported. Dental implants serve as a foundation for highly natural-looking and functional tooth replacements, and can be used to replace a single tooth up to a full set of top and bottom teeth, now one of Dr. Michalski's top procedures, the "All on 4" fixed implant bridge. This innovative concept uses as few as four implants to replace a full arch of teeth. Because he is also a cosmetic dentist, Dr. Michalski has the unique ability to plan both the surgery and the final smile design. The procedure replaces the problem teeth and the IV sedation he offers creates a relaxed experience.

Since your jaw, teeth and bones have individual characteristics, Dr. Michalski uses his in-house CT scanner for precise implant measurement and 3-dimensional visualization to fully understand the structure of each person's jaw. Combining his expertise and advanced equipment, he is able to locate

Dr. Michalski is accepting new patients. Appointments for evaluations and consultations are available on weekdays and may be made by calling 860-563-4544, or visiting the website www.michalskidmd.com

the best bone structure and choose the ideal implant placement sites for the patient. "Through this procedure we take implant dentistry a step above," says Dr. Michalski. "We take teeth out and the same day put teeth in. We provide our patients with IV sedation and they wake up with new teeth."



As one of his advanced procedures is dental implants, Dr. Michalski is a leader in his field. He has attained Diplomate status in the International College of Oral Implantology, the highest honor in the field. He is a Misch Fellow, a graduate of numerous post doctorate training curriculums and has trained and studied with the best implant surgeons in the world.

"I am able to show people what their dental implant options are and change their lives. We use art and science to take a patient from a smile they dislike to one they love by creating their perfect smile," explains Dr. Michalski.



THADDEUS S. MICHALSKI D.M.D.
GENERAL, COSMETIC AND IMPLANT DENTISTRY
Blending the Art & Science of Dentistry

15 Rhodes Road, Rocky Hill • (860) 563-4544
www.michalskidmd.com facebook.com/dentistrockyhill



Getting Married?
Let us know!



The Valley Press is interested in publishing engagement and wedding announcements. Send them to Valley PRESS Editor at 540 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 or e-mail aalbair@turleyct.com. There is no charge.

can be beneficial for the child's social and emotional growth because they are more integrated into the world around them than if they were sitting in a traditional carrier.

"A lot of times in our country, we don't think about babies as people," Huebner said.

"As human beings, we're oriented to the world in an upright position. To think about a baby being able to feel very safe and being at sort of the same vantage point as other people, they're integrating all of that as they grow and develop.

"If you're oriented to the world the way everyone else is already oriented to the world, and the way you eventually will be oriented to the world, it certainly can't hurt," she added.

While the babywearing equipment and classes are the primary focus of the business, in the years since Huebner and Heske teamed up they have continued to add more products, including a line of cloth diapers that Huebner said they also call a passion, as well as a variety of natural toys.

The online business continued to grow, but the company took its biggest leap yet this past Thanksgiving when they opened up their storefront on Fenn Road.

"It's always been our ultimate goal," Huebner said. "We did it one step at a time."

Making sure they had time for family was an important part of the process and both have had additional children since the business began.

"Our focus has always been on people and connections and education," Huebner said.

They created a room behind the

sales floor at their new location large enough to host classes and meetings for new parents. So instead of going to people's homes or renting locations for their educational programs, Huebner and Heske can offer babywearing classes on site.

Huebner said they hope to expand further to offer a wider variety of classes by bringing in other local professionals in CPR training or infant massage.

"We're looking to utilize this space as much as possible," Huebner said. "Online is a wonderful resource, but it does not replace in-person connections."

While the retail aspect of their business is a large component, it is not the most important part of what they do.

"The reason that we opened the store is so that we could help people in the community with things they need help with on their parenting journey," Heske said. "We're really here as a resource."

Huebner said she recognizes that some parents may not be as involved in the world of natural parenting as she is, but she still encourages people to learn more and see if any aspects appeal to them.

"Our goal is to give people enough information to make decisions for what is best for their family," she said.

"We don't pass judgment. If you want information, we'll give you what we've got, and if we don't know it, we'll do whatever we can to find it." **NL**

Bean Tree Baby is located at 113 Fenn Road. For more information on products, classes, or to schedule a private session, visit beantreebaby.com or call 860-436-5482.

Business Notes



The Newington Chamber of Commerce held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 4 at **The Dental Center**, 2304 Berlin Turnpike. On hand were, from left, chamber board members Alex Scott, Michael Crouchley and David Marsden; state Sen. Paul Doyle, The Dental Center owners Dr. Brian Bell and Dr. David Bell, Barbara Honor, Deputy Mayor Maureen Klett, chamber immediate past president Terri Gogluicci, and Town Councilors Diana Casasanta-Serra and Carol Anest.

American Eagle Financial Credit Union, with a branch in Newington, donated \$34,933 to the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut as part of its annual campaign. The donation comprised \$18,371 that employees pledged, an \$8,846 grant from American Eagle's Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and \$7,716 that was raised through the credit union's "Wear Jeans to Work on Friday" campaign.

Addolorata Ciccone has joined **Jefferson House** as its new geriatric clinical pharmacist.



Everett Legassey of the **Newington Panera Bread bakery-café** was named baker of the year by the Howley Bread Group, owner and operator of 28 Panera locations in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Ivelis Vasquez was named Newington's associate of the year and Leanna Toro was associate of the quarter. **NL**

Grace Episcopal Church

124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington • 860-666-3331

Sunday • 9:00 am
Holy Eucharist

Church School: Sundays 9:00 am

Tuesday:
Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Sanctuary is
handicapped accessible

Interim Rector: Father David C. Parachini
www.gracechurchnew.org



REAL. LOCAL. SAVINGS.
See how much you could save on car insurance today.

David Johnson | 860-667-0877
2315 Berlin Turnpike • Newington

Saving people money on more than just car insurance.®



GEICO
Local Office®

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2012. © 2012 GEICO.



Dignitaries cut the ribbon at the opening of the new Autism Families CONNECTicut offices at 600 North Mountain Road. The nonprofit has been run out of its founders' homes since its creation six years ago.

Creating better lives

Autism Families CONNECTicut opens its first official home

by Mark Jahne
Editor

The goal of Autism Families CONNECTicut is to create active lives for children along the autism spectrum. Now, it has a new office and

program space where it can do just that.

The nonprofit organization's founders were moved to tears of joy when official ceremonies were held

March 4 to open their first "home" in office space at 600 North Mountain Road.

Autism Families CONNECTicut was formally registered as a nonprof-

it organization in 2010 but was limited by the fact that it was run out of homes and lacked consistent program space. The new office space will allow it to grow to meet the

NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Is Now Accepting Applications for the Following Vacancies:

**Substitute Teachers
Learning & Special
Education Tutors
P/T School Bus Drivers
Cafeteria Workers**

Please apply online at www.npsct.org

For more information, please contact the office of Human Capital Development at 860-665-8630



Lasky-Griswold Antiques



Buying Antiques & Collectibles

Paintings, Art Glass, Lamps, Pottery, Porcelain, Books,
Sports Memorabilia, Manuscript Documents, Autographs, Photographs,
Military Items, Swords and Firearms, Gold, Silver and Coins.

Please call Ray or Tim (860) 436-9891
Open by chance or appointment

383 Silas Deane Hwy.
Wethersfield, CT

Free House Calls, Estates and Verbal Appraisals • Highest Prices Paid

increasing needs of central Connecticut families with children along the autism spectrum.

The organization was founded to provide these children and their families with fun, recreational and social programs. They are designed to develop social skills, encourage active play, teach new activities and support healthy growth and development.

It all started 12 years ago when Jackie Bailey Procyk of West Hartford gave birth to a son who is on the autism spectrum. Procyk and her mother, Leah Bailey Moon, discovered that there were few programs available to him, so they decided to start their own nonprofit in 2010.

The mother-daughter pair ran everything out of Procyk's home in West Hartford. The family also has a long history in Wethersfield, where Procyk grew up and Moon served on the Town Council.

Procyk continues to serve as program director of Autism Families CONNECTicut. She said the organization has grown enough to allow it not only to rent office space, but to hire a professional executive director, Mary Helen Richer.

Richer joined the organization in October 2014 and has a lengthy background of nonprofit experience.

"For the last six years, we really have been working around dining room tables and borrowing space," she said.

That style of operation became more difficult as the organization grew. It needed a physical location that could provide space, equipment

and room for families to gather.

"We now run six different programs multiple times a year," Richer said. "What we were looking for was space large enough to hold our programs. It needed to be reasonably priced and centrally located."

"To have our own home is just so exciting," Moon added.

The organization serves all of Greater Hartford. Families come from as far away as Stratford and Tolland to participate in its activities.

holiday parties, beach day, Dad's Night Out, Mom's Nights, summer concert night, go-karts, family events and sibling activities. Autism Families CONNECTicut integrates skilled therapists with the expertise of parents in creating its programs.

According to its literature, there are more than 9,000 children and teenagers in Connecticut on the autism spectrum. Agencies that serve them are few in number and many times program costs are high.

**"For the last six years,
we really have been working
around dining room tables
and borrowing space."**

– Mary Helen Richer

"We do tailor all the programs especially for children on the spectrum," Procyk said. "We started small. Our programs are unique and we keep the costs very low."

She and Richer are the only staff members. They contract clinicians with specific expertise to assist as needed. Quality programming is always an emphasis.

"They design all of our programs and run all of our programs. We also have a lot of volunteers," Richer said.

"We are just thrilled. It's been a long time coming," Procyk added.

Already on the agenda are running, swimming, dancing, music, building, Friday night teen socials,

It's signature program is called Playing on the Spectrum. Children ages 3 to 13 participate in four-week sessions along with their siblings in the Sibling Club. Structured activities serve to facilitate exercise and motor skills.

Wings with Autism is a program that teaches children with autism how to deal with airport security and boarding an airplane. This is conducted at Bradley International Airport in partnership with airport staff and the Transportation Security Administration.

Autism Families CONNECTicut participants get to attend the dress rehearsal of the annual performance



of "The Nutcracker" put on by the Ballet Theatre Company. They also attend a special sensory-friendly performance of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts.

Town and state officials who attended the ribbon cutting offered a warm welcome to the staff, parents and families in attendance. Mayor Roy Zartarian called the addition of this nonprofit part of the evolution of North Mountain Road, a mixed-use office park that contains for-profit businesses, a Hindu house of worship and two ethnic social clubs, among others.

"Thank you for choosing Newington. ... We are thrilled to have you here," state Rep. Gary Byron said.

"We're proud to have you as part of our community," added Michael Loscialpo, president of the Newington Chamber of Commerce.

Autism Families CONNECTicut is a member of the Connecticut Autism Action Coalition, Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, Leadership Greater Hartford and the Newington Chamber of Commerce. [NL](#)

The nonprofit will hold its annual fundraiser April 2 at the Simsbury Inn in Simsbury. To learn more about that event, or about the organization in general, call 860-474-3444 or visit autismfamiliesct.org.

Wethersfield Monument Company

serving Greater Hartford since 1986



*Special Designs
for Personalized
Memorials*

- Monuments
- Cemetery Lettering
- Markers

860.372.4020

www.wethersfieldmonument.com

526B Silas Deane Hwy • Wethersfield

If you
don't know
insurance
know your
agent.

433 South Main St.
West Hartford, CT 06110
Tel: (860) 232-1330

bobnewbold@fahyinsurance.com



Bob Newbold

THOMAS FAHY
Insurance Associates
www.fahyinsurance.com



**BLUE HERON
HEALING**

relieving pain • reducing stress • replenishing life-force

Julie Montineri • Energy Medicine Practitioner

INTRODUCTION TO ENERGY MEDICINE

- * Are you drawn to hands-on healing?
- * Curious about the human energy field?
- * Fascinated by the interplay of mind, body, spirit and its impact on your health?
- * Ready to drop habitual mental defenses that keep you stuck?

Training begins September 2016

860.563.5682

Details at BlueHeronHealing.blogspot.com

PETS



Dog trainer Ben Garson of Dogology in Canton said that training your dog "results in having a deeper relationship with them."

Sit! Stay! Socialize!

Learning how to improve your pet's behavior

by Alicia B. Smith

Staff Writer

When it comes to training a dog, it is the human who needs the lessons.

When a dog is properly trained and socialized it can benefit not only the pet, but the owner's and animal's health too.

"If you want a dog to respect you, you need to learn their language and communicate with them," Ben Garson, dog trainer at Dogology in Canton, said.

He and his staff of trainers are training dogs one human a time.

"I love dogs, and I love working with them, but a lot of what I do is working with people," he said of his business that offers group and individual training sessions at the shop or at home.

A common thing Garson runs into with pet owners is the idea that they know what they are doing in terms of training their dog because they had other dogs before.

"They think, I've had dogs all my life, you feed it, you take it for a walk," Garson said. "Sometimes the most dangerous things are things we don't know or assume we know. Really investigating and educating yourself on how to communicate with them is huge."

Garson said common mistakes people make when training their dog is to be too forceful and using a louder voice than is necessary. Things such as the way a person stands,

moves or the energy in which a dog owner corrects their pet all impact whether a dog will be successfully trained.

Garson said the best way to make training a success is to connect with their dog the way they connect with other dogs, with body language being a huge component.

"Those things come more natural to a dog," he said.

When the once adorable puppy grows into an older, less active senior dog, the pet's behavior may change as they develop age-related issues, such as joint pain or illness.

Garson said that older dogs have developed a pattern of behavior that they stick with, much the way a person does. He likened it to a person flipping a switch to turn on a light even though the power is out; the behavior has become a habit.

One of the things that pet owners should keep in mind when working with an older dog is that changing their behavior can be stressful for the pet, and the dog should not feel pressured, that is why it might take more time to retrain a dog than to start fresh with a puppy.

"It's not impossible," Garson assured.

What older dogs need is a person they can trust and respect and who will gently lead them into proper behavior.

"A lot of people confuse freedom with happiness, they think a dog who

Looking to adopt? Here is a list of area rescues

Boot n' Kit Canine Rescue,
Farmington Valley
Bnkrescue.com
(Dogs only)

Dog Star Rescue,
Farmington Valley
Dogstarrescue.org
Facebook.com/dogstar
(Dogs only)

Mary's Kitty Korner,
Granby
860-379-4141
maryskittykorner.org
(Cats only)

Animal Friends of Connecticut,
West Hartford
860-827-0381
afocinc.org
(Dogs and Cats)

West Hartford Animal Control
860-570-8818

Connecticut Humane Society
701 Russell Rd.
Newington, CT
800-452-0114
cthumane.org
(Variety of animals)



177 Day Street, Newington, CT 06111
860-953-3553

www.Newingtonvet.com

Schedule your pet's dental prophylaxis (cleaning) in February and receive a discount.

LOCATED ON THE WEST HARTFORD/NEWINGTON LINE



Lord Edwards Grooming Room

Where your pets are treated like royalty!

All breeds & cats professionally groomed

Grooming 10% off

New customers only. Some restrictions

191 Day St. Newington / W.H. Line • 860-953-1555

Only 1 mile south of New Park Ave.

(near Cashway Lumber, 1 block south of W. Hartford) Safe, ample parking



PETS

has no structure, no boundaries or rules is a happy dog," Garson said. "But, really, nowhere in life does that exist, kids raised without structure and boundaries tend to be miserable adults."

This is true for dogs as well.

"Socialization is one of the most crucial parts of raising any dog," Christian Suter, owner of Candlewyck Kennels in Glastonbury said. "It's something owners should really make a point to work on. If you are having trouble with it, seek someone out."

Suter defined socialization as "being socialized with everything in their environment, this means cars, trains, trucks, all sorts of people, sounds, different smells, other dogs, anything they can encounter in its environment."

Suter said socializing a puppy should begin immediately when a puppy comes home to its new family, usually around 8 weeks old.

To do so simply means introducing the puppy to anything in and around the house, including people

and other pets.

"What you want to do is, if the puppy shows any fearfulness or uncertainty, you encourage it to overcome that," Suter said.

While starting immediately with a puppy is ideal, older dogs can also be socialized to feel better in their environment.

"You don't want to overwhelm the older dog. If it's fearful of something – other dogs, running cars, you want to help that dog and encourage this dog to be more confident in that situation. When older dogs fear something, they often had a negative experience in the past," Suter said.

Candlewyck Kennels offers doggy day care, which, Suter said, can be an excellent way to help socialize dogs. Puppies are put in a separate area where they are first introduced to other young dogs about the same size.

"I think it's important for an owner to understand how a dog learns," Suter said. "If you understand that, it helps you tremendously in socializing and getting to know

your dog and working with your dog."

"I am a big proponent of socialization and training," Dr. Monica Dijanic, medical director at Beaver Brook Animal Hospital in Wethersfield, said.

She has heard statistics ranging from 30 to 65 percent of dogs are surrendered to shelters because of behavioral issues. It does not have to be this way.

For starters, training your pet, Dijanic said, helps to establish a human-animal bond and it prevents the pet owner from becoming frustrated. It also helps keep pets healthy.

"If you have an untrained dog that eats your Thanksgiving turkey, you will not only have an upset family but foreign body issues, GI upset; There are health ramifications," Dijanic said. Additionally, if a dog is trained to come at their name it can keep them safe if they should get out of the house or off leash.

"The big one people talk about is the human-animal bond you will be

bonding with a much more well-behaved dog or cat," Dijanic said.

Issues such as a cat urinating outside of its litter box or a dog that constantly jumps on people can be prevented with proper training.

Dijanic recommends pet owners sign up for dog training classes.

"I've been in the veterinarian field for over 25 years," she said. "When I get a new dog I do training classes. It's a nice refresher and bonding time, something you and your pet can do together."

Classes, even for those who have attended before, help to introduce new techniques that may be unfamiliar to pet owners.

While dogs are the most common pet to benefit from training, Dijanic assured that cats, too, can benefit.

Typically, they will train themselves to use a litter box, but pet owners can help train them to not scratch furniture by having a scratching post available or using pheromones to help keep cats calmer. **NL**

Sale Prices Valid March 31 - April 27, 2016.

PET SUPPLIES PLUS[®]

GREAT PRICES. NO BEGGING.

2 WEEKS ONLY!
MARCH 31ST
TO
APRIL 13TH



**50%
OFF**
WITH CARD

NATURE'S WINDOW BIRD FOOD
20-Lb. Bag, Four Seasons Wild Bird
YOU SAVE \$8.49



2 WEEKS ONLY!
APRIL 14TH
TO
APRIL 27TH



\$11.98
WITH CARD

NEW AT PET SUPPLIES PLUS!
TIDY CATS SCOOP CAT LITTER
35-Lb. Pail, All Varieties
YOU SAVE \$4.00



15% OFF WITH CARD **BLUE WILDERNESS**
All Dog Food, Cat Food, and Treats



CONNECTICUT STORES ARE FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED.

BRISTOL
1168 Farmington Ave.
860.585.5544

GROTON
646 D. Longhill Road
860.446.0022

MANCHESTER
283 W. Middle Tpk.
860.533.9780

WEST HARTFORD
2480 Albany Avenue
860.570.2461

WETHERSFIELD
1773 Berlin Turnpike
860.563.3110

WETHERSFIELD
1142 Silas Deane Hwy.
860.563.3510

Summer Camps & Learning



Register Online
TODAY!
Ages 3-Grade 10

NEW FOR 2016!

- New! 2 Week Sessions**
- New! Week Long STEAM Classes**
(for campers entering grades 3-12)
- New! Option for Scholastic Only**
- New! Senior Field Trips**

Renbrook School SUMMER ADVENTURE

www.renbrooksummeradventure.org
West Hartford, CT 860.232.8410

The Most Open Public Sessions in CT! Right Around the Corner from Westfarms Mall!



Call or check out our
website for schedules
and directions.
skatevmsr.com



Veterans Memorial
Skating Rink
56 Buena Vista Rd.
West Hartford, CT
860-521-1573

SPRING HOCKEY PROGRAMS

Cross Ice Hockey
Ages 6-14

An exciting and fun hockey experience!

March 14 to May 23

Adult Co-Ed Instruction & Game Play

Ages 18 and over
March 16 to May 25
Registration is now open.

**Register Now for Spring
Learn to Skate Lessons!**

Summer fun at our camps. Register NOW!

West Hartford Hockey Camp
Buena Vista Recreation Camp
Buena Vista Sports Adventure Camp
Buena Vista Afternoon Camp

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

4 exciting summer camp programs for
children from preschool through 11th grade.

Each program is unique, yet share a commitment
to excellence in curriculum, staff, and facilities,
and are based on the premise that learning and
fun go hand in hand!



Summer Place
Summer Place Leaders in Training
Kinderplace and Li'l Place

THREE TWO-WEEK SESSIONS
ARE OFFERED

SESSION I
June 27 - July 8

SESSION II
July 11 - July 22

SESSION III
July 25 - August 5



**BUS SERVICE AND EXTENDED
HOURS OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.**

860.768.4432

SummerPlacePrograms.com

Camp KIDCO

2175 Berlin Turnpike, Newington

Put some sizzle in your kid's summer! KIDCO has a
schedule full of camp activities designed to challenge
imagination and foster new friendships. Campers age 5-
12 can stay "cool" in our 8,000 square foot climate
controlled facility designed just for kids their age!

Theme Weeks **Swimming** **Indoor Gym**
Cooking **Arts & Crafts** **Field Trips**

Our team of camp counselors work for us all year -
they're experienced, trained in first aid & CPR, and ready
for some full-time fun in the sun! If you're looking for
some creative fun this summer, count on Camp KIDCO!

Open Mon-Fri 6:30AM - 6:00PM

(860) 667-7191



Summer Camps & Learning

BUSY BEES **TINY DANCERS** **HOME ECONOMICS** **COOKING**

Tons of Fun at Elmwood Community Center Camps!

AGES 3-5

- * **Busy Bees Preschool Camp**, M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm. Weeklong sessions starting June 20th. Learning-based fun camp with weekly themes: arts & crafts, outdoor activities, water play, stories, songs & more.
- * **Tiny Dancers**, M-F, 9-10am. Weeklong sessions starting June 20th. Fun & energetic introduction to different dance styles (new style each week).

We also have theater & gymnastics camps for preschoolers!

Elementary/Middle School

- * **Dance Foundations**, M-F, 10am-12pm. Weeklong sessions starting June 20th. Students are introduced to a different dance style each week including hip hop, ballet and jazz.
- * **Cooking Around the World**, M-F, 1:30-3:30pm. Weeklong sessions starting in July. Learn culinary history, ingredients and cooking with focus on a different cuisine each session (Italian, Greek, French & others).
- * **Home Economics**, M-F, 1-4pm 6/20-6/24 & 6/27-7/1. Learn sewing and cooking basics and some handy household tips.

Plus Theater, Pottery, Gymnastics & more

Elmwood Community Center
1106 New Britain Ave, West Hartford • 860-561-8160



PLAY THE ARSENAL WAY

2016

REGISTER TODAY | SPACE IS LIMITED

FLORIDA | CALIFORNIA | NEW YORK | NEW JERSEY
CONNECTICUT | WASHINGTON, DC | MARYLAND

Arsenal SOCCER SCHOOLS

TECHNOcamp

100% FREE. 110% FUN!

FREE PROGRAM.

FREE MEALS.

FREE TRANSPORTATION.

WHAT'S BETTER THAN THAT?

If you are thinking about what to do with the kids this summer, **TECHNOcamp** is the place to be for kids entering 7th or 8th grade. The camp is **completely FREE** and will have several programs where kids can learn more about things like culinary arts, hairdressing, masonry, sound production and so much more!

Take advantage of this **great summer camp** and all the **FREE** fun that comes with it!

Applications are due **June 1, 2016** and space is limited!
Visit cttech.org to learn more and fill out an application.



*All programs are subject to change.

Slice of LIFE

Photos by Allie Rivera



The Children's Department at the Lucy Robbins Welles Library was abuzz with excitement March 2 as staff and volunteers from the Newington Children's Theatre Company came together to celebrate Read Across America Day. The day encourages reading and commemorates the birthday of author Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. It also had crafts about the Junie B. Jones books series as NCTC will be performing the musical version from April 1-10. For more information visit nctcarts.org or call 860-666-NCTC.



Read Across America

1. Gave Lapin, 6, went all out for the day's festivities as the Cat in the Hat. **2.** NCTC volunteer Ian Rothausser, 11, helped at the face painting table, turning 4-year-old Luke into a colorful cat. **3.** Cora Tracey, 8, decorated both a cupcake and her outfit to celebrate. **4.** Eight-year-olds Matthew Vuong, left, and Jayden Lu decorated cupcakes with frosting, sprinkles and other sugary treats. **5.** Sophia Michaud, 7, volunteered to help run the event with other members of the Newington Children's Theatre Company. Sophia will be playing Shirley in its upcoming production of "Junie B. Jones, The Musical." **6.** Inspired by the Dr. Seuss story "Gertrude McFuzz," Jacob Tessutorne, 5, created his own version of Gertrude, complete with bright colors and feather tail. **7.** Twelve-year-old Robert Longo, left, and 11-year-old Andrew Schilling are involved with NCTC's upcoming production of "Junie B. Jones, The Musical." They helped run a table filled with Junie B. Jones books and a bookmark that visitors could color.



News roundup

Bowling Woodchucks

1. Residents from Middlewoods Independent and Assisted Living Communities in Newington and Farmington have been on strike in the Connecticut Senior Wii Bowling League. The Woodchucks, as they are called, began the season in September and will bowl until April, with an end-of-season tournament coming up in May at the Bristol Senior Center.

The team includes 10 bowlers, four from Farmington and six from Newington. The Woodchucks are the only team in the league to represent a senior living community. All other opponents are from local senior centers. The team's best bowlers include Newington's Nikki Wierbicki.



Kindness reigns at Paterson

John Paterson Elementary School has been focusing on kindness since its School Family meeting in early January. School Families are small groups of students from grades K-4.

ness to their teachers by sparking conversations to learn more about them, giving them an apple, or helping them with a needed task.

Guerrera runs again

State Rep. Antonio "Tony" Guerrero, who represents Rocky Hill and portions of Newington and Wethersfield, will seek a ninth term in the 29th Assembly District this fall. The veteran Democrat is chairman of the House Transportation Committee.

He was elected mayor of Rocky Hill in 1999 and then won his first legislative race in 2001. Guerrero said he plans to protect state revenues earmarked for rebuilding roads, rails and bridges, as well as modernizing air and port facilities.

Save these dates, support Project Graduation

Newington High School Project Graduation is holding several fundraisers to ensure a safe alcohol-free and drug-free all-night graduation party for the class of 2016. This has been a town tradition for 28 years and is solely financed by donations and fund-raising events. The cost is approximately \$30,000.

The first event is psychic medium Angelina Diana at 7 p.m. April 7 in the NHS auditorium. Tickets are \$32.50

A Zumbathon will be held from 10 a.m. to noon April 23 at the Mortensen Community Center in town hall. The donation is \$15.

A comedy night and dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. May 6 at the Polish American Club, 140 Wilson Ave. Tickets are \$30.

A golf tournament tees off at 1 p.m. May 15 at Indian Hill Country Club. The cost is \$125 per golfer and includes lunch, green fees with cart, dinner and prizes.

Anyone who would like to purchase tickets for any of these events, or make a financial donation, may contact Eileen Colonese at 860-250-9837 or nmfcloones@yahoo.com.

Till a community garden

The Community Gardens are located next to the Young Farm property at 282 Church St. and available for rent to Newington residents only. Garden plot sizes are 20 by 20 feet and will be roto-tilled and marked by the town.

The planting date will be dependent on soil and weather conditions but is anticipated to be mid-spring. Water will be available for gardeners who bring their own containers.

The fee for each garden plot is \$25. Register in the Parks & Recreation office at town hall Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Returning gardeners may reserve their plot any time before March 31. Registration for new gardeners begins at 9 a.m. April 1, depending upon availability. Call 860-665-8666 for more information.

Ambulance calls top 130

Newington Emergency Medical Services responded to 134 emergency calls for service during the month of January. Of these, 126 were handled by the on-duty crew and others by members responding from home to staff the second ambulance.



Comfort through pillows

2. Members of the GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club recently gathered to make comfort pillows for cancer patients at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain. Alicia Gadzinski, left, oncology nurse navigator, graciously accepted 82 pillows from members Maureen Reale, Pat Mahoney, Ann Whitford and Diane Rickenbacker. The hospital is having a Mammogram Day April 1. For additional information call 860-224-5011.

These meetings are used to incorporate the social aspects of the curriculum, facilitate learning from peers, and promote collaboration and working together.

Paterson students participated in the Great Kindness Challenge School Edition. The entire school participated in kindness acts that were prompted by the GKC with a list of 25 deeds, but it was not a competition.

The students also showed kind-



Those calls included 55 advanced life transports and 35 basic life transports. NEMS members volunteered more than 1,500 hours of their time during that month.

Honoring top students

3. Superintendent of Schools William Collins recently honored the outstanding student from each school for the month of February. They are, back from left, David Gorski of John Wallace Middle School, Arayana Bracken of Newington High School, Kenneth Flores of Martin Kellogg Middle School and Andzelika Kluska of John Paterson School; front, Aryanna Morris of Elizabeth Green School, Kamryn Gaydos of Ruth Chaffee School and Hebah Habib of Anna Reynolds School.

Kellogg hosts showcase

Martin Kellogg Middle School and its Academy of Biomedical Sciences played host for a Health Science Careers Best Practices Showcase Feb. 11. The showcase was presented to a dozen Greater Hartford school administrators and was led by: Jennifer Freese, academy program leader and science teacher; Kimberly Davis, director of extended learning for the Newington Public Schools; and Maria Martineau, educational consultant with Paxton/Patterson, which provides the modular technology education program for the biomedical academy.

The purpose of the showcase was to demonstrate the success of the academy over the past year and a half and demonstrate how the integration of the modules provided by Paxton/Patterson helped the



academy transition into a blended learning environment. Blended learning environments provide concept-driven instruction, career-ready practice, daily collaboration and project-based learning.

During the showcase, the eighth grade students demonstrated eight health science careers instructional units including biomedical engineering, clinical lab practices, emergency medical technician, forensics, medical imaging, nursing, sports medicine and veterinary medicine.

Chocolate champs

4. Heather Hitchcock, co-chairwoman of the Newington Chamber of Commerce Chocolate Challenge, right, presents a plaque to Missy and Danielle of Mad Masterpieces, the winners of the 2015 challenge.

Register for Creative Playtime Preschool

Newington Parks and Recreation is accepting registration for its Creative Playtime Preschool pro-

gram, open to children ages 3 to 5. Informational packets are available at the Parks and Recreation office at town hall or download the information at newingtonct.gov/parksandrec. Call 860-665-8666 for details.

Assess your home energy

Newington Parks and Recreation, in coordination with HE-Energy Solutions, LLC, is offering residents the opportunity to get a home energy assessment. It includes a blower door and ductwork air leak tests, installation of energy-efficient light bulbs, rebate opportunities for qualified central air conditioning systems, rebate up to \$200 for replacement of certain inefficient appliances and more.

All of this can take place for a fee of \$99. This will also lower energy costs and is a long-term investment in one's home. This service is normally valued at \$700; \$50 from each fee will be donated by HE-Energy Solutions to support the Extravaganza fireworks show.

POST ROAD TOURS 2016 Bus Tours

Get Your Seat Today and Leave the Driving to Us!!

Star War's Exhibit in NYC

April 9 - The Power of the Costume

Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island

May 7 - Don't Miss These Two NYC Icons

**Red Sox, Yankees,
Horse Races, Nascar
On Sale Now!**

Washington, DC 3 Days

July 8 - 10 - Join Us to our Nations Capitol

Nashville, TN & More

October 15 - 21 - Don't Miss This!!

For More Information: postroadstages.com

860-644-3484

1105 Strong Rd. South Windsor, CT 06074

RONCARI AUTO RENTAL L L C

• No Seasonal price hikes.

• Cars are thoroughly **sanitized** before every rental.

• **10% discount on POSTED RATES BELOW** for StarCard Members and their out-of-town colleagues and corporate associates, , Costco, BJ's, and Sam's Club.

• Plus all applicable airport fees and taxes.

2015 Kia Forte Economy Size
\$47.95/Day - Everyday



2015 Kia Optima Standard Size
\$59.95/Day - Everyday



**Must make reservations at:
roncariautorental.com 1-800-555-6540**



Read Across America

5. The students and staff at Anna Reynolds School celebrated Read Across America Day and the birthday of Dr. Seuss by decorating grocery bags from Stop & Shop with their favorite book titles. Customers received the special bags March 2 at the Fenn Road Stop & Shop.

Summer jobs available

Newington Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for summer employment through March 31. Positions include, but are not limited to, lifeguards, water safety instructors, camp counselors, parks and grounds maintenance and concession stand employees.

For additional information call 860-665-8666 or print out an application at newingtonct.gov/parksandrec.

Hero honored

The Newington Volunteer Fire Department held a ceremony to honor Patricia Frost of Pheasant Run Drive for her heroic actions during a house fire Jan. 25 on that street.

After noticing a fire in an attached garage, she alerted the occupants to the fire. Both neighbors and their dog were able to make it out of the home safely.

Byron, Zartarian testify

6. State Rep. Gary Byron (R-Newington) and Mayor Roy Zartarian testified against a bill that could usurp local control and zoning to state-level appointees. The legislation would establish a Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority.

The bill calls for the formation of a new quasi-public state agency to oversee development of projects



within half a mile of train stations, bus stops, and projects undertaken in the governor's transportation investment plan. This would include the CTfastrak busway.

Byron and Zartarian said development along the busway and similar projects should be left up to the individual cities and towns and would best be handled by local land use boards and commissions.

Reserve Churchill Park

The town Parks & Recreation Department has areas at Churchill Park available for rental as picnic locations. Reservations are limited to Newington families, organizations and businesses and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Proof of residency is required.

There are three picnic areas from which to choose: Upper Area (open space, no shelter, 40-person limit, \$35); Middle Pavilion (large shelter and electricity, 150-person limit, \$90); and Lower Pavilion (shelter and electricity, 60-person limit, \$60).

Facilities include restrooms or portable restrooms, large charcoal grills, volleyball, tennis, basketball and bocce courts, horseshoes and a children's playscape. The softball field can be reserved for two hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Sports equipment can also be reserved.

Payment for picnic rentals must be received at the time of registration. For further information call 860-665-8666 Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. **NL**

One of our many "Rehab Star Graduates"

We Serve and Welcome The Entire Community

Served over 2,000 individuals from
our surrounding communities

Short Term Rehab ~ Respite Care
Long Term Care ~ Memory Care
Skilled Nursing Care ~ Outpatient Rehab

 **PILGRIM MANOR
HEALTH & REHAB**
A Covenant Retirement Community

5 Star Medicare Rating

52 Missionary Rd. • Cromwell 860-635-5511 covenantvillageofcromwell.org

Joe Specializes in the Medicare Marketplace

New to Medicare? Let me help!

Call to discuss your Medicare Choices & Options

Turning 65? Losing employer coverage?

Need extra help with Medicare prescription drug coverage?

Hospital Indemnity Plans • Medigap Supplements • Advantage Plans



**Please Call Joe Wroblewski,
for a FREE
No Obligation Consultation**

Helping people in the area for 19 years

860.372.4967
185 Silas Deane Hwy, Wethersfield

Events *spotlight*

Spring Rummage Sale

April 3-4

Temple Sinai

41 West Hartford Road

860-561-1055

The Sisterhood of Temple Sinai presents its annual Spring Rummage Sale. Items include clothing, household items, books, knickknacks and small appliances. Sunday hours are noon to 3 p.m. and admission is \$1. Monday hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday is Bag Day, when shoppers pay one low price per full bag. Funds raised support temple and religious school activities.

Whist Evening

April 7, 6 p.m.

Pitkin Community Center

30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield

860-986-9707

The GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club presents a night of Whist including refreshments, door prizes and raffles. Admission is \$6 and funds raised will go toward scholarships and charitable donations. The club is a nonprofit community service organization.

Military Whist

April 20, 6 p.m.

Newington High School cafeteria
605 Willard Ave.

jmorin@npsct.org

Alpha Delta Kappa will host its annual Military Whist fundraiser, a card game that offers players a combination of luck, skill and surprise. Tickets are \$6 each and will be sold at the door. Raffle and door prizes will be available. Alpha Delta Kappa is an organization of current and retired teachers and proceeds from this event will allow it to award a scholarship to a female Newington High School student.

Strauss Ball

April 23, 6 p.m.

Hartford Saengerbund

719 North Mountain Road

860-666-0760

Waltz the night away at the annual

Strauss Ball, featuring the music of the Sam Vinci Trio. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. followed by a Viennese dessert table. The cost is \$35 per person and reservations are required.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

April 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 1, noon to 3 p.m.

Newington Senior &

Disabled Center

120 Cedar St.

860-665-8720 or

newingtonct.gov/library

The Friends welcome book lovers to this free annual event. A preview will take place from 5:30-8:30 p.m. April 29 for a fee of \$5. Books, CDs and DVDs will be on sale. Buy a Friends bag for \$7 and fill it up. Proceeds from this sale benefit the library's collections and programs.

Celebrate *with us!*
8th Anniversary

20-40% Off
Items Throughout
The Store!

Storewide SALE

KABANA

FOURKEEPS
— yesterday, today, tomorrow & always —

SKAGEN
DENMARK

April 1-30

Pennachio Jewelers
120 Hebron Ave • Glastonbury • (860) 652-0806
www.pennachiojewelers.com

AAA Approved Auto Repair
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

SILAS DEANE AUTO
REPAIR | ALIGNMENT | SALES

WINNER Best Auto Care
BEST OF ROCKY HILL
NAPA AUTOCARE CENTER

Oil Change - Basic Chevron \$10 OFF ✓ Up To 5 Quarts w/Filter ✓ Some Vehicles Additional ✓ Disposal Additional	Premium Brakes Save Up To \$100 ✓ \$40 OFF Front Pads/Rotors ✓ \$40 OFF Rear Pads/Rotors ✓ \$20 OFF Brake Fluid Flush
Oil Change - Premium NAPA \$15 OFF ✓ Up To 5 Quarts w/Filter ✓ Some Vehicles Additional ✓ Disposal Additional	Great Tire Prices Save Up To 35% ✓ All Makes Included ✓ Call For a Quote ✓ Contact Us for Details
Oil Change - Platinum Mobil 1 \$15 OFF ✓ Up To 5 Quarts w/Filter ✓ Some Vehicles Additional ✓ Disposal Additional	Wheel Alignment 69⁹⁹ ✓ Modified Suspension More ✓ Center Steering Wheel ✓ Prevent Tire Wear HUNTER Engineering Company

860-436-6211
1801 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Weekdays 7-6
Saturdays 7-2

FOR SALE

Quality Pre-Owned Vehicles
Call Now or Check Our Website - www.SilasDeaneAuto.com

CLEAN CARFAX

FB.com/SilasDeaneAuto SilasDeaneAuto.com

April calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

4 Ready for Kindergarten, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 95 Cedar St., 860-665-8720 or newingtonct.gov/library, also April 11

5 Play With Us, 10:15 a.m., for children with special needs, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 95 Cedar St., also April 12

Let's Make Music Together, noon, for ages 2-4, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Half-Day Fun, 2 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also April 19

7 Tech 4 U, 1:30 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also 5:30 p.m. April 14

Family Storytime, 6:30 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also April 14, 21 and 28

Project Graduation Presents Psychic Medium Angelina Diana, 7 p.m., \$32.50 per person, Newington High School auditorium, 860-250-9837 or nmfcolonese@yahoo.com

Evening Book Discussion Group, 7 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

11 Babies, Books, Bounce & Bubbles, 9:15 a.m., for ages 0-12 months and a caregiver, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

12 Connecticut Wildlife, 1 p.m., for grades K-4, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Teen Crafting – DIY Fashion,

6:30 p.m., for grades 6-12, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

National Alliance on Mental Illness, 7 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., 860-205-9542 or 860-830-2129

13 Career Search Strategies, 10 a.m., registration required, 860-665-8720 or newingtonct.gov/library

Jr. Cookbook Club, 6:30 p.m., for grades K-2, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

14 Encountering Dragons, 10:15 a.m., for ages 3-6, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

MS Support Group, noon to 2 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., 860-667-1314 or 860-236-2751

Film "The Martian," 1 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also 6:30 p.m. April 26

Cozytime Stories, 2 p.m., for grades K-4, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

15 Film "The Peanuts Movie," 1 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Film Mockingjay Part 2, 6 p.m., for ages 13-18, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

16 Pizza Storytime, 11 a.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Tales to Tails, 1 p.m., children read to a certify therapy dog, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also 4:30 p.m. April 28

17 LEGO Junior Makerspace, 2 p.m., for ages 4-7, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

18 The Joy of Coloring (Adults), 6:30 p.m., registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also 10:30 a.m. April 27

19 Stories & Art, noon, for ages 2-4, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

20 Chess Club, 4 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Alpha Delta Kappa Military Whist, 6 p.m., Newington High School cafeteria, \$6 admission, jmorin@npsct.org

Cookbook Club, 6:30 p.m., for grades 3-6, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

21 Word 2013 Basics, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

23 Family Fishing Derby, 9 a.m. to noon, for ages 3-15, Mill Pond Park, 860-665-8666

Project Graduation Zumbathon, 10 a.m. to noon, Mortensen Community Center, \$15 donation, 860-250-9837 or nmfcolonese@yahoo.com

22 Family Earth Day Celebration, 1 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 860-665-8720 or newingtonct.gov/library

23 Strauss Ball, 6 p.m., Hartford Saengerbund, 719 North Mountain Road, \$35 per person, reservations required, 860-666-0760

25 Get Rid of Cable TV and Save Money, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

26 The Roots of Rock 'n' Roll, noon, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club, 7 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., 860-666-4371

29 Friends of the Library Book Sale Preview Party, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Newington Senior Center

30 Wrestler Bob Backlund, 10:30 a.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Friends of the Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., 860-665-8720 or newingtonct.gov/library

Construction Club, 1 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 95 Cedar St., 860-665-8720 or newingtonct.gov/library

Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at mjahne@turleyct.com or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.

Editorial

Enough with the name-calling

We remain embroiled in the midst of a presidential election campaign that feels like it started a decade ago. Primaries and caucuses are being held all over the country as the political parties try to whittle down the field to their final candidates.

Recent campaign events, particularly those involving the Donald Trump campaign, have become rowdy. Protesters are becoming more forceful and supporters and security are tossing them out. There have been physical altercations and strong words thrown both ways.

The fact that some of the other candidates are speaking out about how all of the name calling and emotion that is part and parcel of modern American politics needs to be tempered is good. But, they must have been asleep for the past two or three decades.

Such obnoxious behavior is nothing new. Television and radio personalities pander to it every day. As much as the media and the candidates claim that they want to talk about the issues, the truth is that they just love to stir the pot and encourage people to react with their emotions rather than with their intellect.

That is a disservice to everyone. It creates a powerful us against them mentality and demonizes the other side of the debate. It creates closed minds and stubborn resistance to listening to any ideas other than our own.

The United States of America is supposed to

be the worldwide model of free speech. But there is little respect for that portion of the First Amendment to the Constitution, at least not when it comes to politics.

To our readers who harbor strong liberal political ideals – conservatives are not fascists. They are fellow citizens who have a different political philosophy and opinion.

To our readers who harbor strong conservative political ideals – liberals are not communists. They are fellow citizens who have a different political philosophy and opinion.

There is nothing wrong with being passionate about our political beliefs, but that passion needs to have a limit. Otherwise there is no hope for civil discourse and such discourse is a key ingredient of democracy.

When Liberal Party candidate Justin Trudeau was elected prime minister of Canada this past October, he asked his followers to tone down the rhetoric against their Conservative opponents. He reminded them that they are all citizens of the same country and should treat each other as neighbors, not as enemies. Can you imagine any of the current U.S. presidential candidates making such a comment after he or she wins the presidency in November? That person would likely be excoriated by his or her party.

It's all about winning and forcing one's agenda down the throats of the losers. That's a shame. We can, and should, be better than that. **NL**

Letter

School supporters employ scare tactics

To the Editor:

On March 8, I attended the town meeting concerning the Board of Education's proposed budget, which would have a 3.5 percent tax increase. This increase would greatly affect homeowners, being the second year in a row.

I have lived in Newington most of my life, raised two daughters (one with special needs) and now have two grandchildren attending Newington High School. Newington schools have a very good educational system and throughout the years all the changes have been met.

As a former employee of both a private school and public school in Newington, I have knowledge that our public school does not go without its needs met, unlike other schools.

At the meeting, there were both teachers and students who spoke in favor of the increase, which of course they would want. As I listened to their discourse, it occurred to me that perhaps students expressing their free speech or teaching moment was not in the appropriate venue because the budget increase would not directly affect a student.

Their needs were being fulfilled regardless, but the taxpayers would be responsible for the burden of an increase. Just my opinion, of course, but it was rather overwhelming. And definitely there were "scare tactics" at work.

Hopefully our Town Council members who ran on a platform of no tax increases will fulfill their promises and the board will table its wants with the excesses that are not transparent to the public; \$72 million for a town of 4,200 students seems almost surreal.

– Sandra Charland

newington LIFE

540 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070
860-651-4700

Read our publication online at
TurleyCT.com

KEITH TURLEY, Publisher

EDITORIAL

Abigail Albair, Executive Editor
aalbair@turleyct.com

Mark Jahne, Editor

Alison Jalbert, Assistant Editor

STAFF WRITERS

Alicia B. Smith, Allie Rivera, Mara Dresner, David Heuschkel, Ted Glanzer, Sloan Brewster

ADVERTISING SALES

Melissa Friedman, Advertising Director
melissa@turleyct.com, 860-978-1345

Lisa Oster-Zippin,
lisa@turleyct.com, 860-264-5652

PAGE DESIGNERS

Daniel Kornegay, Cynthia Martel, Robert Sirois

GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT

Barbara Ouellette, Production Manager
ads@turleyct.com, 860-264-5523

Maureen LaBier, Production Assistant
Corley Fleming, Cynthia Martel, Kathy Kokoszka, Cindie Cagenello

CIRCULATION

For circulation issues, please call 860-651-4700

FOLLOW US ON



published by

TurleyCT
COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS

CLASSIFIEDS

Avon • Canton • Farmington • Glastonbury • Newington • Rocky Hill • Simsbury • West Hartford • Wethersfield

Vacation Rental

★★★★★★★★
**SPECTACULAR
PRIVATE OCEAN
BEACH! JUST BRING
YOUR TOWELS!**
Shelter Harbor, RI. 2 BR
cottage, AC, beautiful
saltwater pond, private
beach, Tennis, no pets.
Great for trips to Watch
Hill, Newport, Mystic.
Available 7/30 - 9/10.
\$1,200/wk.
Call 860-658-4115
★★★★★★★★

Tag Sale

**TAGS & TREASURES
SALE** – Webb Barn
at the Webb-Deane-
Stevens Museum, 211
Main Street, Wethers-
field, CT - Featuring
hundreds of antiques
and vintage household
treasures: books, silver,
china, glass, linens, fur-
niture, etc. donated by
some of Connecticut's
oldest families. Also
fine handcrafted items.
Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m.
to 4 p.m. and Sunday,
April 3, 10 a.m. to 4
p.m. Bag Sale 2-4 p.m.
Sunday (\$3 per bag)
\$5 Admission.

Rummage Sale

**SPRING RUMMAGE
SALE** - West Hartford
United Methodist
Church, 1358 New
Britain Ave., West
Hartford. Exit 40 off
I-84, 1 block east of
Westfarms Mall. Friday,
April 8, 7-9pm. Admis-
sion \$1.00. Saturday
April 9, 8am - 1pm. Bag
Sale - Free Admission.
Items: clothing, shoes,
handbags, kitchen
items, domesitics, toys,
books, small furni-
ture, household items.
Questions? Please call
860-521-7766

Cleaning Services

**ADA'S HOUSE
CLEANING** – Quality
personal service. Week-
ly, biweekly, or monthly.
Specializing in help to
clean before closing/
moving or one time
cleaning. In business
since 2000. Call 860-
521-3823 or 860-944-
6541. Lic & insured
#1110413.

**OFFICE OR HOUSE
CLEANER.** If you need
your office or house
cleaned, feel free to give
me a call. Free esti-
mates. 860-856-1803.

**CLEA CLEANING
SERVICES** – Profes-
sional and Reliable
housecleaner with over
10 years of experience.
I come with references.
Call Clea for a free esti-
mate. 860-331-1481

Help Wanted

**GOOD ATTITUDES
REWARDED. MERRY
MAIDS NOW HIR-
ING** full time or part
time. Must be able to
work Monday-Friday
from 8am-5pm. No
nights, holidays or
weekends. Must have
own car, driver's license
and insurance. Please
call 860-563-8367 to set
up an interview.

I Buy Houses

**I BUY HOUSES AS-IS.
CASH.** Call today
860-674-9498 or Email:
john@boucherbuilding.
com CT. REG. # 530518

Call 860.651.4700
for more information

Services

**BENEDICT OVER-
HEAD DOOR.** Is your
one stop for all garage
door problems.
CT HIC #0621772.
Call 860-828-2951.

**BATHROOM RE-
FINISHING.** Tub and
Shower Replacement
-economical to custom.
Do the job right - re-
place - don't cover up.
Toilets, sinks and vani-
ties as well. Reasonable,
licensed and insured.
Charles Peterson 860-
839-0246.

**COMPLETE HOME
OWNERS SERVICE** –
30+ years of experience.
Richard 860-647-9667

**B & B AC SERVICE,
LLC** – Troubleshooting
and repair on heating
and cooling systems.
Call Bill 860-573-8912
LIC. 390116 Fully
Insured.

**BUCCHERI & SON
LANDSCAPING** –
Lawn services including
roto-tilling, trimming,
spring and fall cleanup.
Dependable and reli-
able. Fully licensed and
insured. Call for free
estimate. 860-539-4713

Services

**ANDY WOTTON
PLUMBING & HEAT-
ING, LLC** 860-833-
8153. We offer honest
plumbing at a reason-
able price. Estimates
are always given before
any work is done. From
snaking your main
drain to water heaters
and boilers, faucets and
leaky pipes - WE DO IT
ALL. Remember with
Andy Wotton Plumb-
ing, it's not done until
you say it is. Call today
860-833-8153. Licensed
and insured P10282605
S1 0402048.

CHS CARPENTRY.
Kitchen & Bathroom
full remodeling, win-
dows, doors, decks,
porches, cabinets,
installation, paint,
custom tile installa-
tion, drywalls, siding,
rooing, floors & trim
work. Fully licensed
& insured. References
available. Reg.#612982
Call 860-803-5535 or
email chscarpentry@
live.com



Services

**Z-THE HANDYMAN,
LLC HOME IM-
PROVEMENT.** Interi-
or. Exterior. Painting,
flooring, decks, power
washing, vinyl siding,
roofing, etc. Don't pay
high prices, Call 860-
690-2855. Ask for John.
Licensed & Insured.

**PROTECT YOUR
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY.** Patents,
trademarks etc. Call Ted
Paulding. No longer rep-
resenting the big guys.
Now helping the little
guys become a big guy.
860-474-5181.

**HOME WATCH SER-
VICE - THE ALTER-
NATIVE TO HOUSE
SITTING** for snowbirds,
vacationers, empty
homes for sale. Profes-
sional & Insured. www.
mindyourmanorct.com
860-805-6226

MIKE'S TUTORING
Patient, friendly, expert
algebra, geometry,
precalculus, calculus,
trigonometry, SAT math,
chemistry, physics,
biology tutor available.
For more information,
please call Mike's Tutor-
ing at 860-651-6146.

Tutoring

**PIANO TUNING AND
REPAIRS** by Hartt
School of Music trained
tuner. Piano cleaning
and climate control also
available. Contact Ted
Williams 860-228-0309.

**NEED HELP WITH
YOUR RESUME?** I'm a
Career Coach with 25+
years HR experience to
help you tell your story
in the most professional
and productive way. Call
860-573-5263.

Gamblers Anonymous

Gamblers Anonymous
can help you. Take
back your life. Phone:
855-2-CALL-GA
855-222-5542 to speak
with someone. Gam-
blers Anonymous is a
non-profit fellowship of
men and women who
share their experience,
strength and hope with
each other that they
may solve their com-
mon problem and help
others to recover from
a gambling problem.
www.gamblersanony-
mous.org.



Classified Ads:

\$40 for up to 20 words, 30¢ each additional word

**Classified Ads run monthly in all 6 of our local publications. If
ordering by mail, please make checks out to TurleyCT or provide your
Credit Card information. PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY DEADLINE
OR YOUR AD WILL NOT RUN. We accept Mastercard, Visa and
American Express. Make checks payable to TurleyCT.**

3 WAYS TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD!

Call: 860-264-5656
Email: mlabier@turleyct.com
Mail: TurleyCT
Attn: LIFE Classifieds
PO Box 497
Simsbury, CT 06070

Name (PRINT)	AD TEXT
Company:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Check or Card #	
Exp Date	Security Code
No. of Months to run:	



BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



Winter 2015-16, an interesting one!

In the more than 110 years of record keeping, the average temperature for this winter of 35.1° places it in 2nd place for warmest. This, despite 2 days in February with low temperatures at -12° at Windsor Locks! The winter of 2001-02 remains at the top of the list with an average temperature of 35.2°

Other records for the season: 31 days with a high temperature of at least 50° (previously: 26 days during the winter of 1932-33); also 9 days with a high of at least 60° (previously: 7 days during the winter of 1975-76 and that of 1953-54).

The warm weather this winter can be attributed,

in large part, to a very strong El Nino. December was the warmest on record at an amazing 11.7° above average! January was 4.1° warmer than average, February came in at 2.3° above.

During the season, Windsor Locks had 11.08" of precipitation (rain, plus the water equivalent of snow and ice), 1.52" above

average. Total snowfall was only 17.1", 13.6" below average (most of the snow occurred during the month of February with 14.2"). This will not be the least snowy winter on record – that honor still goes to the winter of 1936-37 when only 14.7" of snow was measured for Greater Hartford. [NL](#)



BRIAN AMBROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

SPRING IS HERE!
SCHEDULE YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION NOW!

860.659.1119

brianambrosephoto.com

Happy Spring!

\$99.95 OIL CHANGE DURING APRIL

Every **Tues., Wed., and Thurs.** in April

Present ad for savings, offer applies to std. 5qt oil change, most vehicles, not valid with other discounts.

BRAKE PADS or SHOES

\$99.99

installed, per axle
Most vehicles

Brake systems
are complex.

Stop by or call for a convenient
appointment to have our experts
inspect your system.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION

Let our staff inspect your brake system.

There may be extra costs for additional parts and labor.

Must present coupon. Expires 4/26/16. Not valid with any other discounts.

\$50 OFF

ANY SERVICE Over \$200

Lube, Oil & Filter • Heating • Wiper Blades
Headlights & Bulbs • Coolant Service
Tune Up • Batteries • Shocks/Struts
Brakes • Electrical • Diagnostic
• Transmission Alignment

Present Coupon for savings. Excludes Tire Service and Emissions.
Not valid with other discounts. Not combinable. Exp. 4/26/16.

WE BEAT EVERYBODY!
**GUARANTEED
LOWEST PRICES**

GOODYEAR **Continental**
TIRE
MICHELIN **DUNLOP** **KELLY TIRE**

moderntirect.com

**MODERN TIRE AND
AUTO SERVICE**

moderntirect.com

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER LOCATIONS

3455 Berlin Turnpike, Newington
Just before Stew Leonard's
860-666-2404

**Open Sundays
9am-4pm**

Mon-Fri 7AM-6PM, Sat 8AM-5PM

867 Cromwell Avenue, Rocky Hill
Next to Westside Market
860-760-9000

MODERN TIRE
898 Farmington Ave., Rt 4
Farmington 860-677-5454

MODERN TIRE
514 West Main Street
Cheshire 203-272-3296